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The Canadian INDIA TIMES

(The National Voice of Indo-Canadians)
Established in 1967

Emergency found illegal

New Dehi — The judicial commission that has been investigating former prime minister Indira Gandhi's government has concluded that it was characterized by illegality, widespread repression and persistent subversion of human rights.

In an interim report made public in Parliament yesterday, the commission said the state of emergency that prevailed during Mrs. Gandhi's last 1¼ years in office had been declared fraudulently and administered arbitrarily. It warned:

"The circumstances in which the emergency was declared and the ease with which it was accomplished should be a warning to the citizens of the country."

Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who was himself one of the thousands of political prisoners of the Gandhi government in those days, presented the detailed, 240-page document to the Parliament, amid shouts of protest from the ranks of Mrs. Gandhi's supporters.

In a statement issued along with the report, the Government said that it had "accepted the findings, observations and recommendations of the commission," but it stopped well short of announcing any further legal action against Mrs. Gandhi, who has made something of a political comeback since her electoral defeat 14 months ago.

"On a number of matters the findings disclose grounds for initiating legal action where offences appear to be made out," the Government statement said, in very cuatious words.

"Government has decided to initiate all such action in ccordance with the law, after examination of each individual case."

Some leaders of Mrs. Gandhi's political party have said they will organize nationwide protest demonstrations if she is arrested again, as she was, briefly, last October. Her party's leader in the lower house of Parliament, C.M. Stephen, said yesterday there would be "a countrywide movement" to protest against the report, which he called "an instrument of political vendetta."

That drew an immediate rebuke from Mr. Desai, who said sternly that "the Government will not fail to take proper action" against Mrs. Gandhi's supporters, if they cause disorders.

The one-man investigating commission, run by J.C. Shah, a former chief justice of the Supreme Court of India, based its report on 81 days of testimony from officials, and membets of the public, spread over seven months.

Several of Mrs. Gandhi's former Cabet ministers testified before the Shah commission — some attacking her, some defending her — but Mrs. Gandhi, in a dramatic appearance before it in January, refused to testify on the grounds that the commission was politically motivated, and that it was wrong to call former leaders to account for their official actions.

The whole question of legal action against the 60 year old former prime minister has been complicated for the present Government by domestic political considerations including not only her recent signs of strength but also the ruling Janata Party's signs of weakness and internal bickering.

Mrs. Gandhi's political party, called the Congress I (for Indira) to distinguish it from the faction of the Congress Party that opposes her, made a strong showing in legislative elections in south India early this year and just this month won an important by-election in Uttar Pradesh, in the north.

New York Times

Racist remarks by Ontario Commissioner

By Robert Sheppard

Advocating test-tube babies as a form of racial insurance is a personal initiative of the head of the Ontario royal commission on declining school enrolment, and not of Education Minister Thomas Wells.

Mr. Wells "knows all about these wild ideas of mine. But he doesn't pay any attention to them," commissioner Robert W. B. Jackson said with a chuckle.

"I'm sure he wishes they would go away on their own, like he does with this whole thing about declining enrolment."

Mr. Wells said in an interview yesterday that Mr. Jackson has never spoken to him about the test-tube baby idea, and that the Government would reject any such suggestion.

Mr. Jackson is suggesting the need for selective test-tube reproduction to ensure that the founding racial groups of Canada do not disappear.

Although he expects some criticism for his outspoken comments, Mr. Jackson does not feel they will affect the credibility of his royal commission report.

The comments he will be making in the report will be quite separate from "this sort of thing," which he sees as the overriding problem in Canada today.

The ideas are controversial, Mr. Jackson said, but they are not racist. "I expect I will be accused of being a racist, but that doesn't concern me in the least. We have to look the facts of the matter squarely in the face.

"We're not replacing ourselves, and so we've created a deficiency" in the numbers of Canadians of European descent. "I don't think it's fair that we may disappear and be replaced by others (immigrating to Canada) who are not controlling their fertility rates. After all, fair is fair."

The Alberta-born educator and demographer said he is like the little boy with his finger in the dike, trying to warn Canadians that they might disappear as a people because of declining fertility rates - although at this stage the hole in the dike is so big his job is "more like slamming on a shovel full of dirt.

"We're on the winding down of a school system, and the winding down of a country. Anyone that points out the unpleasant facts of all this is bound to be considered a whipping boy."

He said that "we as a society" will soon have to make decisions about the application of test-tube reproduction, probably on a selective basis, so that no particular group will disappear.

This does not necessarily mean limiting immigration from Third World countries or freezing the mosaic of Canadian society in its present pattern.

Mr. Jackson, a one-man royal commission who has been holding public meetings throughout Ontario since his appointment last August, told a London, Ont. audience on Friday that a policy promoting test-tube babies may be necessary to save Canada from "racial suicide."

He elaborated on these views in an interview in Toronto on the weekend. Mr. Jackson is the former director of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, a post he held for 10 years.

In an interim report last week on declining school enrolment Mr. Jackson reiterated his remedy for the situation - women must start having more babies.

Even immigration, which helped Ontario gain almost 23,000 children in 1975-76, dropped to an increase of about 15,500 children last year, he said.

Warning that other measures are needed, he suggested two that likely will be proposed in his final report: the state should pay housewives to stay home and have babies, and it should subsidize round-the-clock child care to encourage women on shift work to have more children.

[Globe & Mail]

BBC film on Desai

By George Mathew

New Delhi: The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) would soon release a one-hour film on the Prime Minister, Morarji Desai.

Jonathan Stedall of the BBC and Mr. Mark Tully, its Representative in India, were busy recently in India shooting a film on the Prime Minister. They had five interview sessions with Mr. Desai, Jayaprakash Narayan, Jagjivan Ram, George Fernandez and officials of the Prime Minister's secretariat. They also interviewed a village sarpanch and an editor of a newspaper to produce a full length film on Mr. Desai and the country under him.

They followed Mr. Desai to Korapet in Orissa and to Ahmedabad in Mr. Desai's home state. They also visited Lok Bharatiya University, one of the few rural universities educating teachers and farmers who will ultimately go back to work in the villages. The cameramen felt that Mr. Desai found the British pattern of education not in keeping with the Indian character.

The much talked about urine therapy also would find a mention in the film in passing reference.

Mr. Stedall's own comments about Mr. Desai is that "to have a wise old man in ones midst is a bonus."

Mr. Stedall was impressed by the Prime Minister when he interviewed him last year, particularly his quality as a man. "Here is a man capable of practicing what he preaches," he thought. His film would be a reflective one, rather than a political one.

Sanjay Gandhi whose bail was cancelled by the Supreme Court of India being taken into custody at Tiss Hazari Courts in Delhi on May 5, 1978.

Desai asks press to regulate itself

New Delhi — May 12 Morarji Desai said today he would not like a government representative to be appointed on the Press Council.

The Press should regulate itself instead of depending on the government, the Prime Minister said in the informal chat with members of he All-India Newspaper Editor's Conference.

If the Government started giving financial aid it would become a handle to influence the press. The press should, therefore, have its own Press Council to govern its functioning. The government could, however, help by enacting legislation and even make funds available for the council.

The Prime Minister said that Press freedom should be understood in its proper perspective. No freedom was limited in the sense that it must not impinge on the freedom of others.

But freedom could not be guaranteed unless the Press itself was fearless and courageous. What people feared most was the authority of the government. It was for the Press to be an example to the people not to be afraid of doing the right thing.

He wanted the Press to be completely independent. It was all the more necessary because of the propoganda by the former Prime Minister that there was Press censorship even now. But none of the newspapers had done anything to counter that propoganda.

"Have I to speak for you. I am asking you if it is a fact. If anybody apply pressure on the Press through the government? If so, I must stop it.

Meanwhile the U.P. government has prohibited the removal of any working journalist from service without prior approval of the state labour commissioner. In September last year, the government had prohibited the dismissal of a newspaper employee without the sanction of the labour commissioner.

This was announced by Chief Minister Ram Naresh Yadav, at a May Day rally organized by the UP unit of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists at the Local Press Club.

The Chief Minister announced that the Press consultative committee would be revived and reconstituted with the cooperation of journalists. He said the government believed in freedom of the Press and was opposed to any form of control over it.

Yadav expands cabinet

Lucknow — In a two-pronged move strengthened his position by expanding his Ministry, the Chief Minister Ram Naresh Yadav, and dropping a prop of the dissidents, Satya Prakash Malaviya, from the council of Ministers.

Malaviya, Minister for local Self-Government, was known to have become a supporter of the dissidents in the Janata Party after differences arose between him and the Chief Minister some time ago.

The new entrants are: Shiv Mangal Singh (Ballia), and Rama Shankar Kaushik (Moradabad), both as Ministers of Cabinet rack, Raj Bali Tewari (Varanasi), Kazi Moinuddin (Saharanpur) and Lakshmi Sahay, MCC (Allahbad), as Ministers of States; and Maqbool Hasan (Sultanpur) and Dinanath Sewak (Rae Bareli), as Deputy Ministers.

The Chief Minister also upgraded seven Deputy Ministers as Ministers of State — these being Chandra Shekhar Singh, Sharda Prasad Rawat, Satya Prakash Agarwal, Satyavir, Abdul Rauf Lari, Satya Deo Tripathi and Mukhtar Anis.

With additions, the Yadav Ministry has 24 Cabinet Ministers 16 Ministers of State and eight Deputy Ministers. The previous composition was 22 Cabinet Ministers, six Ministers of State and 13 Deputy Ministers.

Meanwhile, all the 11 official Janata Candidates and one candidate each belonging to the Indira Congress and CPI were elected in the biennial elections to the Vidhan Parishad (Upper House) from the U.P. Vidhan Sabha (Lower House) constituency.

A Janata rebel Devendra Pratap Singh was defeated. He was Deputy Chairman of the Upper House.

No more oil sharing

New Delhi - The Government of India does not propose to enter into any contract with foreign companies for exploring and exploiting crude oil resources in the country on the basis of sharing oil, Petroleum Minister Hemvati Bahaguna told the Rajya Sabha.

The Previous Congress Party Government, he said had entered into oil sharing contracts with foreign companies, but the present Janata Government did not believe in bartering away the country's oil resources.

FREE FOR NEW IMMIGRANTS

In order to help the recent immigrants to settle down with minimum discomfort, The Canadian India Times has decided to send the paper free for three months to all landed immigrants who have stayed in Canada or USA for only less than two months. We expect to publish several articles and news items that will be of special interest to new immigrants.

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CITY----------

DATE OF ARRIVAL----------

COUNTRY FROM WHICH CAME----------

OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND----------

Orissa asks why

Ubnashwar — The Orissa Government has requested the Centre to find out why this of all the states, is so frequently lashed by cyclones and tornadoes which leave behind a trail of devastation in about five minutes of their wrathful onslaught.

The request is contained in a memorandum presented by the State Government to the five-member Central team now assessing the requirements of aid to rehabilitate the affected people in tornado-hit Keonjhar and Cuttack distracits.

In less than three months, the State has been hit 21 times by whirlwinds and tornadoes, taking a toll of 813 human lives. The total darpage is estimated at Rs. 30 million.

Children in prisons

New Delhi, May 15 (UNI): The Minister of State for Education and Social Welfare, Channa Singh Gulshan, has urged the State Governments to improve the implementation of the Children's Act. He reminded them that nearly three thousand children are still locked up in normal prisons in the country for want of adequate institutions under this Act. The ill effects this has on children are only too well known.

The Minister was inaugurating the first meeting of the reconstituted Central Advisory Board on Social Defence which comprises both officials and non-officials.

Mr. Gulshan said the State Governments should chalk out a definite plan of action so that concrete steps can be taken for alleviating the sufferings of our children during the International Year of the Child to be observed next year. The States could use as a model Children's Act 1960 which has recently been amended.

Bonanza from tourism

New Delhi — There was a 19.9 per cent increase in foreign tourist traffic to India during 1977 with over 640,000 persons visiting this Government. Visitors from Pakistan and Bengaldesh are not included in this figure.

According to the annual report of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, the gross foreign exchange earnings from tourism department in 1977 were about Rs. 2,830 million at the current rate of exchange.

Outlining the government's tourist policy, the report says that while emphasis on the development of international tourism continued as in the past, development of domestic tourism would be given due importance in the coming years. Efforts would be made to provide clean and less expensive accommodation to "budget" tourists - both domestic and foreign. Steps were also being taken to augment and improve facilities such as for the benefit of low income domestic tourists visiting pilgrim centres. With a view to implementing this policy, it was proposed to build a less expensive hotel in New Delhi.

Several measures were taken during the year to promote international tourism. The facility of "landing permits" to foreign tourists which entitles them to stay for 30 days without visa, was further liberalised. Foreign tourists were allowed to re-enter India from neighbouring countries like Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bengladesh, Afghanistan and Burma in the course of a continuous tour of India and neighbouring countries.

In the Lok Sabha

Send back Rockefeller — M.P.

By our Correspondent

New Delhi: Bhupesh Gupta, leader of the Communist Party of India in the Rajya Sabha demanded that the former U.S. Vice President, Nelson Rockefeller and his team currently visiting India be asked to leave the country immediately because his visit here was to lobby for a solution to the Kashmir issue.

He said Mr. Rockefeller was trying to "influence India" to settle the Kashmir issue and to counter Russian influence in the country.

He said that the executive order of President Carter for the resumption of the supply of nuclear fuel to India was to influence India.

He asked the government to inquire into the allegation against Mr. Rockefeller made by a Calcutta based newspaper. "He is a reactionary warmonger hostile to India. I do not know how people like him are allowed to come and lobby here and the government treats him as a VIP."

He expressed concern about CIA activities in India and wanted an assurance from the government that no one would be allowed to interfere in India's internal affairs or Indo-Pakistan issues.

ASIAN POLICY

The External Affairs Minister, A.B. Vajpayee, told the Rajya Sabha, that the government has decided to project the "Asian personality" in its foreign policy.

Replying to a question, he said, this envisaged intensive bilateral intercourse among the Asian countries in all fields.

RUDRAKSHA

The Commerce Minister, Mohan Daria, assured the Lok Sabha that the government would see to it that no profiteering takes place in the sale of imported rudraksha beads.

The confiscation of a large quantity of rudraksha recently in Varanasi was being investigated. Rudraksha beads of Indonesian origin were being imported from Singapore due to non-availability of direct shipping space for Indonesia.

In reply to another question, Mr. Dharia said that the export of rosewood in log form would be banned by 1980.

GARMENT EXPORT

The Rajya Sabha was told that a decline of about eight per cent in Indian garment exports has taken place to the European Economic Community and USA up to June 1977.

REMITTANCES FROM ABROAD

In reply to another question the Finance Minister said that the government has no plan to mop up part of the remittances sent by Indian nationals from abroad, since such a plan would check the flow of such remittances through legal channels.

The figures for such remittances were: Rs. 1,053.76 crores in 1975, Rs. 1,514.86 crores in 1976 and Rs. 1,908.33 crores in 1977.

FOREIGN COMPANIES

There are 482 foreign companies which have branches in India. Of these 216 whose balance sheets for the year 1976-77 are available showed the value of assets to be Rs. 1,625 crores.

The value of total assets of 20 Indian industrial houses during 1975 amounted to Rs. 4,465.17 crores. The information for 1977 and 1978 was not available.

Among them, the Tatas tops the list with Rs. 909.68 crores, Birlas Rs. 858.81 crores, Mafatlal Rs. 244.23 crores, J.K. Singhania Rs. 209.50 crores, and Thapar Rs. 197.90 crores.

The Law Minister Mr. Shanti Bhushan, told the Lok Sabha that 10 foreign branches of foreign companies had decided to wind up their business in India.

CONSORTIUM AID

The Finance Minister, H.M. Patel, told the Lok Sabha that out of 1,100 million US dollar aid given to India by the consortium, 879 million dollars had already been approved. The balance would be approved by June this year.

GOLD ORNAMENTS

The Finance Minister said that a simplified scheme for encouraging export of gold ornaments by allowing import of gold free of custom duty or by sale of gold from government stocks at international price was being finalised.

Farakka accord

New Delhi — External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee told the Lok Sabha that the Government had no proposal to review the Farakka agreement with Bangladesh at present.

Janata hotels for cities

New Delhi — The Government is planning to setup Janata hotels in all the four metropolitan cities followed by other places. Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Purushottam Kaushik told the Rajya Sabha. He said he had already written to the Chief Ministers regarding the setting up of low- budget hotels and providing better facilities for religious tourists.

The Minister said a provision of Rs. 100 million had been made for the Janta hotels scheme.

Mr. Kaushik said that the Central five-year Plan on tourism between 1978 and 1983 envisaged building Janata hotels to provide clean, comfortable and inexpensive accommodation for domestic tourists as also for the not- so affluent international tourists.

The construction of the first Janata hotel would shortly be taken up in New Delhi.

Mr. Kaushik said a central society under the Societies Registration Act would be set up soon for the establishment of accommodation for pilgrims and for the improvement and maintenance of the establishments. He said the Chief Ministers had been requested to arrange for a survey of dharamsalas and such other establishments to ensure that they were properly registered.

No fear sh

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No fear of Tarapur shutdown

New Delhi — The Tarapur atomic power station is not in immediate danger of a shut-down with the possibility of stretching available enriched uranium fuel for at least six months by reducing the rate of electricity produced.

The plant, according to information, was operating last year, at a lower capacity of 57 per cent because of its inability to remove spent fuels from the reactors as the plant's spent fuel storage tanks got filled beyond their designed capacity.

If the power output is reduced further, the available fuels may be adequate to keep the plant running for six months the sources pointed out.

In the light of developments in the U.S. for the last several months with the environmental groups getting more and more vociferous, the American Nuclear Regulatory Commission's decision has not surprised or shocked scientific circles here.

The protracted negotiations that took place in the past one year or more gave enough indication to the Government that the American position was hardening.

However, knowledgeable sources expect President Carter to reverse the NRC's decision and release the 7.6 tonnes of enriched uranium he had already committed during his visit to Delhi.

Doubts, however continue to be expressed whether Carter would release the consignment before Morarji Desai's visit to Washington in June.

If the uranium is released, it might last six months, thus giving a further lease of life to the Tarapur plant.

In any event, India will have to look for substitute materials to fuel the Tarapur plant a year from now.

There are three alternatives in the event of a firm no from the U.S. on enriched uranium for Tarapur.

They are: shut down the plant use a plutonium oxide/uranium mixture at apsur and get enriched uranium from other countries.

A shut down would mean a loss of about 1,900 million kilowatt hour of electricity to Maharashtra and Gujarat.

But if the other two alternatives are not available the only course would be to shut down the plant rather than agree to international inspection of all of India's nuclear installations.

The plutonium-oxide uranium mixture is now under development at the Babha atomic research centre.

Janata one year old

New Delhi — On May Day, 1977, the Janata Party officially came into being with the merger of its various components, big and small, but its ever continuing birth pangs make its supporters wonder whether it would survive another year.

For, on the eve of the party's first anniversary, one of its stalwarts, 76-year old Home Minister Charan Singh, sent in his resignation from the Central Parliamentary Board and the National Executive in protest against the "Goings on" in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh where two of his lieutenants Devi Lal and Ram Naresh Yadav, respectively, are Chief Ministers.

Both the Chief Ministers have invited the wrath of the Janata Party legislators, Devi Lal for imitating his predecessor Bansi Lal in imposing a one-man rule and Yadav for being too "soft".

Charan Singh's letter sent from his sick bed at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences caused a mild flutter in the Indian Capital, but after meeting the Home Minister 24 hours later Prime Minister Morarji Desai told newsmen that there was "no crisis in the Party."

In Calcutta, Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram, who had a running verbal war with Charan Singh in March and April this year, told newsmen Sunday, April 30 that efforts were being made so that Charan Singh withdrew his resignation. He too said there was no crisis in the Party. "No crisis is a crisis if tackled properly," he said.

Indira knew about N-device

Bombay — Mrs. Indira Gandhi said here that she knew very little about the nuclear device planted on the Nanada Devi peak in the Himalayas when she assumed office as Prime Minister in Jan. 1966.

She told newsmen during a stopover at Santa Cruz Airport while on her way to Cochin in Kerala, she only heard later about the device but did not have full information. "This was done before my time and by the time I heard about it there was nothing that I could do," she said.

About the motive behind the planting of the device, Mrs. Gandhi said: "I can't say definitely that I know, but I could guess."

Meanwhile, political observers noticed a softening attitude by the Janata Government towards the former Prime Minister who was being issued a passport to attend an international seminar on disarmament in Zurich, Switzerland.

MOVING ?
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Latif air chief

New Delhi — Air Marshal Idris Hasan Latif will succeed Air Chief Marshal H. Moolgavkar as the next Air Chief. Air Chief Marshal Moolgavkar is due to retire on August 31.

Air Chief Marshal Moolgavkar, who will be 58 on the day of his retirement, was appointed for a three-year term which would have gone into early 1979. But he is believed to have offered to retire on completing his 58th years. The normal tenure of an Air Chief is three years or 58 years of age whichever is earlier.

Air Marshal Latif, who will receive the rank of Air Chief Marshall the day he resumes office, is 55. He is at present Vice-Chief of Air Staff.

He was Commissioned in 1942 and served with the Royal Air Force in Britain in 1943-44, and later took part in the Arakan front where he distinguished himself as a ground attack pilot.

A graduate of the Defence Services Staff College and the National Defence College, he served as Air Defence Commander and Senior Air Staff Officer in Eastern Air Command Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (plans) at Air Headquarters as Assistant Chief of Air Staff in 1971, he was entrusted with task of making a first-hand assessment of the problems and achievements of front-line squadrons and the IAF's modernisation plans.

On promotion as Air Chief Marshal he became Air Officer-in-charge Administration at Air Headquarters, and later took over as Air Officer Commanding in-Chief Central Air Command and, subsequently, the Maintenance Command.

Unclaimed postal savings

New Delhi - About Rs. 300 million were lying unclaimed in 8.2 million post office savings accounts throughout the country, it was officially stated here.

Postal authorities call these "silent accounts" in which no transactions have taken place in the last six years or more.

There are about Rs. 45,120 million in post office savings accounts at present.

Desai and small papers

New Delhi - Some 60 representatives of the All-India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation met on the lawns of the Prime Minister's residence to acquaint him with their problems.

If they expected sympathy what they got instead was a stiff dose of Mr. Morarji Desai's plain speaking.

Why did they want his help, he wanted to know. He was told that the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, DAVP had as of Jan. 1, stipulated that a weekly must have six pages and a paid-up circulation of 2,000 to be eligible for advertisements. More than half of them had been struck off the list and they were finding it difficult to survive.

Desai: "Advertisements are given on the basis of circulation, if it benefits the Government. Otherwise how is it an advertisement?" He went on to add that all small newspapers were not necessarily good, and they couldn't make a virtue out of being a small paper. "I know there are several small newspapers who are also blackmailers," he added.

"We have missionary zeal," said the Federation's president, adding that many of the publishers and editors in the Federation had been jailed during the emergency - Desai was not impressed. To a man who stepped forward with evidence of having been in prison, he retorted "so what? Do something else to earn a living. I can't help you. It was all very well to talk of Missionary zeal, the Prime Minister said, but how many of them had it?

If the Government, financed them where was Press freedom he wanted to know. What could the Government do? One of the representatives got up to suggest that newspapers be treated as small scale industries for bank loan purposes. Mr. Desai didn't buy that. How are you a small scale venture?? You are a commercial venture, he told them.

In a blue coloured publication called "Bright Uncle's News." "Save your children," it began. "Burn books, destroy degrees." It went on to pose the question "what is wrong with our education?"

Visibly annoyed "What is the meaning of all this? You are inciting people to do all kinds of things and you want a licence for it? Is this a paper, or a pamphlet?"

Greater scope for joint ventures

New Delhi — The business community in India has welcomed the new trend set by the Janata Government towards relaxation of economic controls and liberalisation of the scope and conditions for joint ventures abroad.

The revised guidelines issued recently are seen to open the door for outright export of capital and majority Indian participation even up to 100 per cent in suitable cases.

Indian firms taking up these ventures will now be free to contract foreign exchange loans in international capital market and raise local currency resources through arrangements with financial institutions of the host countries. Exports of goods and services from India, with these firms arrange against capital investment abroad, will, in addition enjoy all the incentives, including cash subsidies and import replenishment facilities which are currently available for export of commodities and services.

The new guidelines do not represent a revision but a qualitive departure from the policy hitherto pursued. The inspiration behind it obviously is that India has arrived at a stage of development where it has surpluses not only in goods and services but also in capital and that export outlets for capital should be encouraged on the same line as is done in the case of commodities.

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RACIST REMARKS

The Ontario Government's Commission on Declining Enrolment in the schools headed by Robert Jackson is creating more heat than throwing light on the question under study. Dr. Jackson recently has come up with some fantastic ideas.

In order to prevent the take-over of Canadian society by non-European races, Dr. Jackson would pay white housewives to have children and failing that would even go to the extent of producing test-tube babies en mass to maintain, or increase, the population of Canada.

What kind of a commission did the Ontario Government chose to look at the school system? Both the Liberals and New Democrats have asked that Jackson be fired from his job. We entirely agree with the stand of the opposition parties.

Jackson Commission has lost all its credibility and a commissioner who is off his rocker cannot bring any recommendations that are worthwhile. Just like the Judy LaMarsh Commission which wasted millions of taxpayers hard earned dollars on high living, while doing nothing at all on the media, the Jackson Commission is adding to the wastage of tax money.

Concerned individuals and organizations should express their feelings on this matter to the Ontario Government. That is the only way in which some of these racists can be kept in their proper places.

Raj Narayan, Minister for Health and family welfare, [left] inaugurated a conference of voluntary organizations and their role in family welfare in New Delhi.

Letters

Dual citizenship

The question of granting dual citizenship to Indians is being seriously considered by the Indian Parliament. I would urge all individuals and organizations who feel strongly about this issue to write either directly to the External Affairs Minister in New Delhi or the High Commissioner for India in Ottawa.

A strong show of support for this cause from Indo-Canadians can only help.

Harsha Dehejia, M.D.
Ottawa.

Greatest democracy

I have read with keen interest G.M.'s letter commenting on Dr. Mathai's observations. I for one agree with G.M. completely. Dr. Mathai is entitled to his opinion as to why his trip was miserable. But does he not know that there are usually three sides to a story: yours, mine and the truth?

D. DasGupta
Ottawa.

Desai condemns charges

New Delhi (May 16): The Prime Minister, Morarji Desai strongly condemned a charge made by Srikant Verma (Congress-I) in the Rajya Sabha that Charan Singh or his followers were responsible for the increasing atrocities on Harijans.

It was a wild and baseless charge, Desai asserted, and if repeated outside the House, would certainly invite legal action.

This observation was met with loud protests from Opposition benches and the Prime Minister could be heard asking: "why can't you be objective? I can't understand.

When Bhupesh Gupta (CPI) said rather angrily that Mr. Verma's statement was not defamatory, Desai reported: "That is for the courts to decide, not for you." On Gupta's repeating that it was open to citizens to make such charges, the Prime Minister replied: "He does not know the law at all."

Verma made the charge during question hour. The question related to the number of Harijans killed between January and March this year and the number of incidents involving attacks on Harijans in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Harayana and Punjab. Verma also wanted to know whether a separate ministry would be set up for scheduled castes and tribes.

He assured the House that as soon as the Home Minister recovered, a Conference of all leaders would be called to find remedies.

Citizenship for over 56,000

New Delhi - The Government of India decided to grant citizenship to over 56,000 refugees from Pakistan who have been living in India - Mostly in Rajasthan - since the 1971 Indo-Pak war, Housing Minister Sikander Bakht informed the Rajya Sabha.

Bakht said that the total number of refugees was 57,764 out of which about 1,500 had expressed a desire to return to their homes in Pakistan. Most of the refugees come from the sind province of Pakistan.

Biggest matrimonial column in Canada

By Michael Prentice

The arranged marriage, and sometimes the payment of a dowry by the bride's parents, are still a way of life among Canada's Indian community.

But the system is not as rigid as it once was. Children of Indian descent born in this country are more inclined to say "no" to their parents' choice.

And one young woman whose family recently sought a husband for her turned down all the suitors. "They were too ugly," she explained, before flying off to England to continue the search there.

Marriage Indian-style has moved with the times in another way. Families seeking a suitable partner for their daughter now advertise.

Perhaps Canada's most successful "matrimonials" classified advertising column appears in the **Canadian India Times**, a twice-monthly newspaper produced in Ottawa by Aleyamma Samuel, who moved from India to Canada 15 years ago.

The column is one of the most avidly-read parts of the newspaper. About 2,000 offers of marriage have appeared in it since the paper began appearing 10 years ago, but Samuel says she has no way of knowing how many led to marriage.

Not all the advertisements are placed by parents seeking to arrange a marriage for their daughter or son. Some are placed by the candidates for marriage themselves.

Many of the advertisements stress the high degree of education of the person for whom a partner is sought. They also indicate class barriers are coming down, for a large number include the phrase "caste no bar."

This one is typical, from parents seeking to arrange a marriage. "Hindu family well settled in Canada invites correspondence for the marriage of daughter aged 23, doing post-graduate study in business administration and holding permanent managerial position in a leading Canadian department store chain."

The role of the parents in arranging a marriage is illustrated by an ad placed by a man, "with handsome heroic personality," seeking an "intelligent, beautiful and socially-matured Punjabi girl."

The ad states that "only respectable and serious girls, preferably their parents," should respond.

Aleyamma Samuel and her husband, John, a trustee of the Ottawa board of education, themselves had an arranged marriage. Arranged marriages are not confined to Hindus. The Samuels are Christians.

She points out parental involvement in choice of a marriage partner occurs in other cultures besides India's.

"Families in western countries try to make sure their child meets the right kind of boy or girl," she says. "In India, they go one step further."

She believes that when a marriage is at least "partially arranged," there is more likelihood it will be stable. At a young age, "perhaps we cannot make a rational decision." Parents are more level headed in assessing whether a prospective partner is suitable.

Where the Samuels come from in southern India, the dowry is still part of marriage - though she doubts a dowry changes hands in many of the marriages that are arranged in Canada.

While the dowry is often paid by the bride's parents directly to the bridegroom's family, it is in fact the girl's share of her family's wealth.

There is no "average" dowry. It all depends on the wealth of the bride's family and how badly they want to make a good match for their daughter.

Samuel says: "Suppose the boy is good in every way, with a good education and from a well-to-do family...The girl's family may pay a lot more than they should."

And sometimes, she says, the boy's parents will say how much they want, and then there's bargaining between the two families.

In the past, Samuel says, young persons were perhaps too shy or afraid to reject their parents' choice of a partner. "But now, if we don't like the boy or girl, we certainly say so. And if we have someone to suggest, we do so."

A young person may be given several choices, meeting each once or twice before making a decision, though "actually, I met only one man," says Samuel, a beautiful woman who has now been married for 17 years.

Young Indians in Canada do have a chance to mix socially, but "some would like to have a wider choice" of marriage partners. Hence they turn to the classified columns, Samuel explains.

One couple the Samuels know met and married after both had placed ads in The Canadian India Times.

Most young persons of Indian descent in Canada want to choose their own partners, Samuel says. "But there are still many cases where parents have a greater say than other Canadian parents."

Most of the advertisements carry a box number. But one in a recent issue gave a Toronto telephone number. It was for a "beautiful 21-year-old Punjabi girl."

Telephoned to inquire whether she had found a husband, the girl's sister answered. She said: "My sister couldn't make up her mind. Maybe 15 men called, and some came to my home. But my sister decided they were all ugly. And now she's gone to England, where we have another sister, to try there."

[The Ottawa Journal - May 6, 1978].

Capital crime

New Delhi - The Delhi police have arrested 6,657 bad character and undesirable leiments in the past three months, Minister of State for Home Affairs Dhanik Lal Mandal told the Rajya Sabha.

Seizures from these elements were: knives and daggers 582; revolvers, guns, pistols and rifles 34; cartridges 75; liquor 1,199 bottles; charas 9.413 kg; opium 3.70 kg.

By George Mathew

New Delhi: Sanjay Gand
of the former Prime M
Mrs. Indira Gandhi ha
placed in judicial custody
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Ka" case by the Supreme
of India.

Mr. Gandhi will rem
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Mr. Gandhi is the prince
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According to the prosecu
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During the trial of the ca
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The Delhi Administration
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In their 25-page judgem
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and Justice P.N. Shing
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"The evidence and ma
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"He has, therefore, for
right to remain free,"
ruled.

Mr. Gandhi was prese
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The Chief Justice told
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Sanjay in custody

By George Mathew

New Delhi: Sanjay Gandhi, son of the former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi has been placed in judicial custody following the cancellation of his anticipatory bail in the "Kissa Kursi Ka" case by the Supreme Court of India.

Mr. Gandhi will remain in custody for 30 days (from May 5) after which the Sessions Judge would be free to grant him a fresh bail or act otherwise as warranted.

Mr. Gandhi is the prime accused in the "Kissa Kursi Ka" case in which the former union Information and Broadcasting Minister, V.C. Shukla, is accused number one. Both are facing trial in the court of the Additional Sessions Judge on charges of theft and criminal conspiracy to destroy the Hindi feature film produced by Amrit Nahata, Janata M.P.

According to the prosecution the prints of the film which had an anti-emergency anecdote, were destroyed on the premises of Maruti Ltd., (the small car project of Mr. Gandhi) during the emergency.

During the trial of the case in the court of the Additional Sessions Judge, a number of witnesses including one of the two approvers, had turned hostile.

The Delhi Administration moved an appeal before the Supreme Court praying cancellation of Mr. Gandhi's anticipatory bail on the grounds that the accused has been tampring with the evidences of the prosecution witnesses.

In their 28-page judgement, The Chief Justice, Justice Y.V. Chandrachud, Justice S. Murtaza Ali and Justice P.N. Shinghal held that they had come to the conclusion that Mr. Gandhi's bail ought to be cancelled.

"The evidence and material on record furnish satisfactory proof that the respondent (Mr. Gandhi) has abused his liberty by attempting to subort prosecution witnesses," the court said.

"He has, therefore, forfeited his right to remain free," the court ruled.

Mr. Gandhi was present in the court when the judgement was pronounced. He immediately rose to tell the court that he had information that he would be bodily harmed in jail.

The Chief Justice told him that he was surprised to know this and observed: "We assume that we are living in a civilised society." He assured him that he was free to come to the court if the slightest harm was caused to him in the jail.

Justifying its order, the court said that refusal to exercise its powers to take back an accused into custody in appropriate cases would reduce the court to a "dead letter" and would make the court a silent spectator to the subversion of the judicial process. "We might as well wind up the courts and bolt their doors against all than permit a few to ensure that justice shall not be done," the court observed.

The court said that a prima facie case had been made out by the petitioner on the statements of witnesses and other material on record that there was a likelihood of the accused tampering with the prosecution witnesses.

Later, Mr. Gandhi surrendered himself in the court of the Additional Sessions Judge, O N Mohra, (where the main case was being tried) who remanded him to judicial custody for 30 days.

Mr. Gandhi pleaded for "better class" facilities while in custody saying that he was used to better standards of living, was not a previous convict and was the Managing Director of Maruti Technical Services Ltd. His prayer, which was not objected to by the prosecution, was granted which entitles him to non-vegetarian food, a fan, a cot and reading materials while in custody. He was also granted an independent cell.

Earlier, Mr. Gandhi drove the 5-mile route from the Supreme Court to the Sessions Court accompanied by his wife Meneka Gandhi and a handful of his supporters around 1 p.m. after the judgement was pronounced. Due to procedural formalities, he was to be taken into custody only in the afternoon and hence he went home and had lunch with his family members. Mrs. Gandhi was away on an election tour. He returned in the afternoon with his bedding, etc. and surrendered himself before the Sessions Judge. He was then ordered to be sent to Tihar Jail.

A large crowd watched as Mr. Gandhi emerged from the court with his wife and V.C. Shukla. His supporters raised slogans in his support and against the Home Minister, Charan Singh. Two of his supporters who squatted in front of the police van were arrested. Although heavy police force was deployed in the area as a precautionary measure, there were no untoward incident and his arrest went off peacefully. Earlier in the day about 50 of Mr. Gandhi's supporters were arrested from the premises of the court for defying prohibitory orders under section 144 CR.P.C.

The special leave petition for the cancellation of the bail of Mr. Gandhi was admitted by the Supreme Court on April 25 when Mr. Gandhi was given one weeks time to prepare his case and the hearing was fixed for May 2.

Mr. Gandhi who preferred to argue his case himself was advised by the Chief Justice that it would be better if he was represented by a lawyer.

During the 10 minutes that Mr. Gandhi initially argued the case himself, the Chief Justice took note of the happenings in the lower courts (there were rowdy scenes in the lower courts and in the Shah Commission whenever Mr. Gandhi appeared) and issued a note of warning that no violation of prestige and dignity of any court in any part of the country would be tolerated.

"Our interest is law and order and to see that the dignity of courts in this country is not violated," he said.

At one stage the Chief Justice told Mr. Gandhi: "You are a responsible citizen and member of society. Don't you think this should not happen?... Come what may, this court will not tolerate any violation of dignity or prestige of any court in the country. We cannot sit with folded hands. We have to take necessary steps against recurrence of such things. We may not necessarily cancel bail of an accused but we will have to put some people wise."

During the three days of arguments before the Supreme Court Mr. Jethmalani, counsel for the Delhi Administration prayed for the cancellation of the bail and prosecution of Mr. Gandhi for grossly misuing his liberty and seriously and effectively tampering with key witnesses, including two approvers in the case. More than half a dozen witnesses had turned hostile.

The main plank of the argument by A.N. Mulla, counsel for Mr. Gandhi, was that the evidence in the case of prosecution witnesses were fabricated by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the prayer of the prosecution was based on political vendetta.

Ramanna to be adviser

Dr. Raja Ramanna, the director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre at Trombay in Bombay, has been appointed scientific adviser to India's Minister of Defence. The appointment appears to have provoked some controversy. Before it was officially confirmed, press reports spoke of Dr. Ramanna's "abrupt removal", which a Defence Department spokesman later said was misleading as he had been sounded out some months previously. But The Times of India has called it a "wrong decision" and "certainly one of the worst cases of pushing round pegs into square holes". Other reports have described scientists at the Bhabha research centre as gloomy at the news.

The main concern has been over the future of the centre itself, which Dr. Ramanna has led for six years. He is regarded as the "father" of India's nuclear capability-it was the Bhabha centre which successfully exploded an underground nuclear device in May 1974 at Pokaran in the western state of Rajasthan, helping to precipitate international concern over the growing trade in nuclear technology. The Times of India's fear is that Dr. Ramanna's transfer will adversely affect staff morale and that the centre will "recede into the background of routine, uninspired work".

The basis for the suggestion that Dr. Ramanna has been a less than willing appointee appears to be that he has been offered the post before and refused it because of his personal wish to remain a working scientist. At the centre he has presided over five research reactors and ancillary plants including a fuel element fabrication facility and a reprocessing plant. Also under his control have been a reactor research centre for fast reactor development in Madras, and a cyclotron in Calcutta.

Nuclear-related policy in India is in the hands of Mr. Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister. He cleared the way for resumed co-operation on nuclear research with Canada after the Rajasthan explosion when he gave Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, assurances last year that there would be no more nuclear tests even for peaceful purposes. The other vexed nuclear issue in India, the resumption of supplies of enriched uranium from the United States for the Tarapur nuclear power station in the State of Maharashtra, now lies in the hands of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) which has to grant the export licence. President Carter has already sanctioned the awaited shipment. [Nature]

Parents, place your matches, medicines, household chemical products, antifreeze, barbecue fluids and other dangerous products away from the reach of children.

Book review by F. Asalal

The Art of India

By C. Sivaramamurti.

Hb. 603 pp. 1,175 illust. 180 plates. Harry Abrams Publishers, New York. $75.00

The Art of India is an experience in consciousness, a consciousness of a very high order. And that is as it should be. Reduced to its bare essentials, the Art of India is what makes India truly unique, sensuous, and fascinating. This book is an attempt at defining the ideas and forms of an art whose continuity, whose imagery, is woven into the very texture of the Indian nation. Here is music and metaphysics, dance and drama, love and life, the religious and the secular, divinity and demons, the sensitive and the sensuous, the earthy and the ethereal, all for the enlightenment of the soul; to lead one on to Moksha, to realize the absolute within the Self and the Self within the Absolute.

E.B. Havell, Herman Goetz, Benjamin Rowland, Stella Kramrisch, Percy Brown, Prapaditya Pal, and Heinrich Zimmer have all produced excellent treatises on Indian Art during the past 30 years; solid scholarly efforts. A.K. Coomaraswamy's works were certainly of a very high calibre and far ahead of the times.

His scientific approach, the keenness of his aesthetic sense, was an inspiration to many of India's Art students. Caelambur Sivaramutti, former director of the National Museum of India, has produced a masterpiece of erudition and beauty in this, his latest work. He combines the indefatigable approach of the relentless scholar with a poetic sensitivity to which the publishers and the french photographer Jean Louis Nou have added a visual experience that is impossible to match.

I was a little wary of the book at first. It was partly because it was released during the 1977 pre-Christmas maddening shopping spree. And I have a built-in suspicion about books released mainly to cater to the coffee table connoisseurs who candidly display huge art books under glass coffee tables to confirm their palpably arty tastes! However, I was pleasantly surprised. While the timed release of the book may be prudent salesmanship, the contents reveal a truly outstanding work. I recommend this book, despite the forbidding price, without reservation, to all those lovers of Indian Art and of India. It should be on the shelves of every Indian household.

First of all, the quality of this book is of a very high order. The photographs especially commissioned for this book were taken by Jean Louis Nou so that the book evokes an overall pictorial harmony, presenting many previously unpublished illustrations. A close study of these photographs is a reminder of visits to Indian Museums and great Art Centers where Art is still a living tradition. That is saying a lot. I might add that without an elementary knowledge of the mythology and history of India, all these wonderful illustrations might appear out of focus. And that is precisely where Dr. Sivaramamurti comes in.

Sivaramamurti sets the stage with a warm description of the earliest phase of civilization in a country where art has flowered beyond all expectations in the proto-historic era. It is a bold and noble achievement in almost every medium; clay, metal, stone, ivory, bone, headwork and faience.

What sets this book apart, more than the impressive photography, the lavish production, the outstanding quality, is the substance of Sivaramamurti's contribution. Let's look at this substance.

There is absolute chronology in Sivaramamurti's approach, only when it is essential to developing themes. He unifies the whole work with recurring concepts drawn from religion and mythology. He takes a holistic and totally Indian view without recourse to aesthetic examination based on classical Western criteria. Moreover, Sivaramamurti has a great fund of literary and historical knowledge to lean on when he traverses the vast panorama that is Indian Art.

Each art must be judged on the merits of its own natural impulses. So we are taken through the richness and variety of India's geography which has been an inspiration to her artists and artisans. One has only to visit Kerala, Orissa, and Assam to witness this matchless diversity not only in geography but also in culture. Shawls and carpets of Kashmir with their striking local motifs, terra cotta of Bengal Bihar and U.P., the soft stone carvings of the craftsmen of Orissa, the intricate bidriwork, the folk arts as seen in indigenous toys and tribal accessories, the sandalwood carvings of Mysore, the sensuous ivory carvings from Kerala, the woodwork from Karaikudi, traditional mural painting; all these are presented in lovely detail. All the photographs in this book have a three-dimensional quality about them. The dancing apsara from the Brihadesvara temple of the 11th century is one striking example.

It is in the contextual evaluation of Classical Sanskrit literature and art that Sivaramamurti excells. For instance in the Kumarasambhava episode where the scene of first summer raindrops falling on the limbs of the penitent parvati is visualised with extensive use of Alamkaras. One has to be imbued with a finely honed literary taste to write like Sivaramamurti. I believe that any attempt to present Indian Art through western methods and sensibility would probably be doomed to failure. The prodigious proliferation of its forms would escape the critic whose examination is based on Greco Roman ideals.

The book also includes an extensive survey of India's influence in Borneo, Java, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Ceylon, Burma, and Central Asia. A full 100 pages of the book is devoted to pictures and descriptions of principal Archeological sites. This, in itself makes the book a very valuable reference tool.

From an elaborate elucidation of the symbols in Indian Art, a glossarry which in itself is a dictionary of art, a chronology of styles, legendary heroes, and a complete bibliography, this is a complete book.

It is impossible to do justice to a book of this sort in a review article, with 1,175 illustrations, including 180 in full colour, this magnum opus is bound to be a classic for all times. Even the price of $75 (Rs 850 in India) considering the rapidly escalating trend in the cost of Art books, is an investment. It is an investment in one's consciousness of India's heritage.

The book is also available from Thulasi Books, P.O. Box 7850, Stanford, Cal. 94305.

Ugly face of Hindi fanaticism

Many eye-brows were raised in India when the Bihar Government recently issued orders totally prohibiting the use of English in any form by its officers, and even making the use of English by any officer liable to disciplinary action.

The State Chief Minister supplemented these orders through a fiat that Hindi should be the sole medium of communication not only with the Centre but with all other States.

Coercing other States to accept Hindi correspondence cannot but invite resistance and retaliation from non-Hindi States.

Reports say that the Bihar Cabinet's decision was opposed at the secretariat level. A few years ago, when the then Bihar Governemtn adopted a similar anti-English policy, it was confronted with an acute shortage of manpower in the higher levels of administration. That Government found it prudent to retrace its steps. The present Government is repeating the same mistake, perhaps to appease a section of the public.

CONSEQUENCES OF DECISION

The present decision will deprive the State of the services of seasoned administrators from all-India services who may not be proficient in Hindi. Bihar will be isolating itself in this crucial sphere.

In July last, when the Bihar Government issued a circular instructing officers to strictly follow Hindi as the official language and have correspondence with different States in that language, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister reacted sharply by announcing that the policy of his State was to follow a two-language formula, which, in effect, meant eschewing out Hindi altogether.

To make matters worse, some Janata leaders at the Centre, instead of proving a sobering and harmonising influence, have adopted an aggressive pro-Hindi posture by pushing Hindi in practice as the sole official language of the Union. Complaints have been heard that even notings on important files are made in Hindi, putting non-Hindi officers in an embrassing situation.

The present decision of Bihar will needlessly embitter inter-State relationship. Already some States have been using Hindi in letters addressed to non-Hindi States. Not long ago, Patna sent a letter to Calcutta in Hindi and received a reply in Bengali. An IAS officer in Karnataka received a letter from the Bihar Government in Hindi and he promptly sent a reply in Kannada.

FATAL BLUNDER

As a direct and inevitable consequence of the creation of unilingual states — which, from the standpoint of India's national unity, was a fatal Nehru blunder — the issue of official or link language has always generated parochial passions and emotional heat.

It has baffled a solution since independence because no side to the controversy has been able to rise above the line of subjectivity and prejudice. In the absence of an all-India consensus, common sense demands that the status quo be maintained, the three-language formula be honestly and earnestly implemented, and no dispute be raked up in a bid to impose one language over the others.

The saner elements in the country have been urging the Central Government to come forward with a forthright declaration reiterating the basic principle underlying the amended Official Languages Act, 1963 which laid down that the switchover to Hindi would not take place until resolutions for the discontinuance of the English language have been passed by the legislatures of all States which have not adopted Hindi as their official language."

The saner elements are looking to Prime Minister Morarji Desai to exert his influence on States like Bihar (ruled by Janata Party) so that Hindi is not made compulsory at least for inter-State communication.

Prohibition hits tourist traffic

Mussoorie - This playground of Princes before Independence and of the nouveau riche thereafter now wears a deserted look because of prohibition introduced in the Himalayan hill resort of Uttar Pradesh from April 1.

Chauffeur- driven limousines belonging to rich industrialists of Bombay and Calcutta no longer wind their way to this queen of hill stations, and discotheques, known for their cabarets and crowning of summer queens, are empty.

"People come to Mussoorie away form the heat of the plains to drown their blues, but why should they come now when they can't even get a bottle of chilled beer," Complained a discotheque owner. He was also bitter that some important seminars and conference scheduled to take place in Mussoorie had already been shifted to Simla. "Businessmen of Simla will earn and we will starve," he lamented.

Owner of a luxury hotel said he would have to retrench his staff, while an estate agent said that the value of property had dwindled overnight and pointed to quite a few "for sale" signs outside buildings.

"Porters and rickshaw pullers, who have been providing luxury to "the obese and the affluent", appear to be the worst hit. They described as mere propoganda the promise of alternative employment. In a normal April each of them earned Rs. 8 to 12 but they hardly had a customer.

The District Magistrate, G.P. Shukla, described complaints of tourist traffic going down "as a mere bogey raised by vested interests." Tourism, he said, would only be partially affected not more than ten per cent. "After all, some hoteliers and cabaret owners do not constitute the whole of Mussoorie."

This optimism, however is not shared by people in the tourist trade. Said one hotelier. "It is not a question of percentages. What is more important is that tourists who have real money to spend will now prefer wet places like Simla and Kashmir. Already Srinagar is reported to have received a record number of visitors.

Poor response to gold sale

Bombay - The response to the sale of gold by the Reserve Bank of India was described in Bombay's bullion market circles as "poor and disappointing," for the RBI awarded only 492.6 kilograms or a little less than half a tonne to 229 successful bidders in the first ever auction sale earlier in the week at prices ranging between Rs. 620 and Rs. 663. The value of gold at about Rs. 32.5 million was considered only a trickle compared to the Rs. 5000 million worth of the precious metal which RBI has in hand to offer.

A leading bullion merchant blamed poor tenders on speculators who, he said, would not want a sizeable quantity of gold to find its way into the market particularly in the present wedding season. The bearish impact of the fresh gold, which is to be delivered to the bidders immediately, was expected to be short-lived.

Labour unrest

Faridabad, May 15 (UNI): Labour unrest in Faridabad, the biggest industrial complex in Northern India, has led to an estimated production loss of Rs. 60 crores in the last seven months.

Swami in Ottawa

The Third Ottawa Geeta Gyana Yagna — A series of lectures by Swami Chinmayananda (The Yoga of Knowledge), evening lectures — Bhagawad Geeta, Chapter 12 on May 27 to June 5 at 7.30-9.00 p.m., Col. By Hall Auditorium, Engineering Building, Ottawa University.

Morning Talks — Kenopanishad — May 28 to June 5 at 6.30-7.30 a.m., Engineering Building, Ottawa University, Ottawa. Co-sponsored by Departments of Religion, Ottawa & Carleton Universities and various Indian Associations of Ottawa.

For information please call 824-8282. All are cordially invited.

Elected fellow

In March 1978, Satish K Aggarwal was honored by the Institution of Engineers (India) and was elected as a "FELLOW" of the Institution for his outstanding contribution in the profession of engineering. Aggarwal is one of the youngest engineer elevated to Fellow grade. It was in October 1976, when he was honored by the Institution of Engineers Electrical (IEE), Great Britain and was elected as a FELLOW. He is being included in "WHO IS WHO in America".

Satish is very well known for his technical work in India and USA. He is currently employed by the United States Corps of Engineers, as Chief, Electrical Engineering and Instrumentation Branch. In his new position, he provides engineering consultation to Facilities Engineers worldwide.

Aggarwal was born in New Delhi, India. He received his MS degree in electrical engineering from Newark College of Engineering, Newark, New Jersey and an MBA degree from New York University in 1969 and 1970, respectively.

In 1961, he joined Siemens of India in Bombay. In 1964, he worked as a Senior Engineer on the construction of Tarapur Atomic Power Station. He migrated to the United States in May 1967 and worked for Consolidated Edison Company of New York, and Bechtel Power Corporation.

Easier foreign exchange

New Delhi — The Finance Ministry has announced the creation of a new credit facility to meet foreign exchange cost of imported capital goods.

Under the scheme, the rupee equivalent of foreign exchange cost will be made available as loan by all commerical banks and public financial institutions. The banks will be entitled to refinance from the Reserve Bank at the Bank rate for these loans.

The period of the loan will ordinarily not exceed 10 years. The interest rate will be specified by the banks from time to time. The present rate will be 11 per cent.

Punjabi program in Ottawa

Ottawa Sikh Society, with T.P.S. Sandhu as President celebrated a Punjabi Cultural Program at the Ridgemont High School Auditorium on April 29th, 1978.

The program consisted of Punjabi Folk Songs, folk dances, classical dances etc.

The men's folk dance "Bhangra" led by Surinder Bhagrath captivated the entire audience. The dancers' colorful costume, the drums, and the jumping in gay abandon were fabulous, to say the least. With some more rehersals the group could give a gala public performance in Ottawa. The women's folk dance "Gidha" was equally attractive and enjoyable.

Payyaz Ahmad's songs were very touching. I for one was filled with nostalgia to visit the Taj Mahal and listen to prayers from the mosques on either side of the Taj.

Mrs. Vij and party gave a Dholki song which was good even though the michrophone did not co-operate. All other songs and instrumental music were very pleasant.

The arrangement for serving snacks was well thought out and well carried out.

By Jaya Subramaniam.

VANCOUVER NEWS

INDIA CLUB [VANCOUVER] ELECTIONS.

Annual Elections for the office bearers of India Club were held on April 30, 78 at the Immigration service society when the following members were elected to form the board of Directors for 78-79.

Krishan Soni - President
Sudarshan Kumar - Vice-President
Gope Shewa - Secretary
Mohan Grewal - Treasurer
Dr. D.P. Goel - Past President
Mrs. Madhu Varshney - Director
Dr. Manohar Singh - Director
Amba Sharma - Director
Rajnikant Pandya the prominent lawyer of Vancouver conducted the elections.

Dr. Goel, the outgoing president in his annual message informed the members that the last year's mottos were service, service and more service and unity and understanding between the members of India Club and the members of our community and other ethnic groups which play an important role in the enrichment of Canadian Cultural mosaic.

Dr. Goel also tried to clear the misunderstanding that India Club is meant only for professionals. Dr. Goel emphasised that the Club is more a service Club than the entertainment Club for professional Indians. Hence, the Club is opened to all the Indians who wish to serve and want to reveal the real character and the strength of the fabric of our Indian Community.

Krishan Soni the new president thanked the outgoing directors and welcomed the new directors.

Gope Shewa

Hindu Sabha elections

Hindu Sabha of Bramalea, elected a new executive committee who shall be in office for a period of two years, i.e. till April, 1980. The office bearers are:

President - Satya P. Malik
Vice-President I - Raghuvansh L. Kapila
Vice-President II - Usha Chopra (Mrs).
General Secretary - Somesh Mishra
Treasurer - Rajinder Chadha
Programme in Charge - Bhagirath Maharaj
Public Relations - S. Jindal, Naresh Mohan, Shyam Sharma.

Hindu Sabha has been in existence for about three years. It caters to the religious, cultural and social needs of the Hindu community of Brampton, Mississauga, Toronto and other satellite towns of Metro Toronto. The Sabha frequently organises Jagrata and provides services for the performance of marriage, death and other social ceremonies.

For information please call Mr. Malik 457-6233 or Mr. Maharaj 677-8409.

Sri Rama Navami

A very important religious festival "Sri Rama Navami" was observed authentically in Ottawa, a few weeks ago.

Dr. A. Venkateswaran conducted an "Akand Rama Bhajan" which went on for all the twenty-four hours. The audience was very large and all were happy to join in the singing. Dr. Venkateswaran's young children also sat it out for most of the time.

Devotees were coming in and going out and coming back again. Dr. Venkateswaran and Mrs Indira Venkateswaran are very devout Hindus and celebrate Bhajans very regularly and in his house you can meet all kinds of Indians who are attracted by the religious atmosphere that prevails there. There was plenty of delicious food - breakfasts, lunches, dinners, snacks and prasadams and made one wonder if Mrs. Venkateswaran had another "Kamadhenu" in her backyard. For days together this 24 hour Bhajan was the 'talk of the town".

By Jaya Subramaniam.

Record food production

New Delhi — Agriculture Minister Surjit Singh Barnala announced in the Lok Sabha that the Production of foodgrains in the financial year 1977-78 was estimated to reach an all time high of 125 million tonnes — four million tonnes more than the previous record production of 121 million tonnes achieved in 1975-76.

He told the House that the production of foodgrains last year had declined to 111 million tonnes and the Government had cautiously set the target this year at 118 million tonnes.

Seghal memorial

Jullundur — Mehdi Hasan, Pakistan's ghazal king was the star attraction at a musical evening orgnaized here, to raise funds for erecting a memorial to Kundan Lal Sehgal.

Among the participants were Begum Para, a former Indian film star who now lives in Pakistan, and Bibi Sirinder Kaur.

Cinema, yest

New Delhi — The Dada Phalke Award for meritorious services to the Indian cinema signals the end of a career and its recipients can discuss the cinema of today and yesterday freely. That is exactly what 81-year old Nitin Bose, this year's prestigious award winner did at a reception by a Bombay producer here.

Today it is money, money and nothing but money. You can perhaps or even deshape a film if you have the money. The power is with the producer and financier.

In the thirties, he said, when actors and actresses "did" a picture they would go the whole hog. It often went on from 9 a.m. to 9 pm. and nobody complained they were so madly in love with their work. . They used to be paid in hundreds but that was a lot of money in those days."

He recalled the tears of joy of Uma Devi (famous for her role in "Chandidas") when she received payment for her role in "Desher Mati", her last film. "Five or six hundred rupees she was thrilled to bits."

On the change in the industry he said: "People before the camera have a stronger voice now. Earlier it was the director, the sound engineer, the cutter - these were the men who decided the shape of a film."

Nitin Bose calls his break with New Theatres of Calcutta (now defunt) the biggest mistake of his life. He quit over "a trifling misunderstanding" which he has never ceased to regret. He found Bombay a very different world. He emerged successfully in the

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Nitin Bose calls his break with New Theatres of Calcutta (now defunct) the biggest mistake of his life. He quit over "a trifling misunderstanding" which he has never ceased to regret. He found Bombay a very different world. He emerged successfully in the western metropolis as well but he was dis-illusioned some of my films made tremendous profits "but they never gave a single, dirty copper."

Although, he said, there was decline in the Bombay cinema, there was plenty of promise elsewhere: Shyam Benegal, Satyajit Ray, Mani Kaul, Mrinal Sen. Theirs are decent civilised Indian pictures inspired workers and no nonsense.

Nitin Bose reserved his highest accolade for today's South Indian pictures. "They are really very, very good, wonderful. For sheer quality they are today better than the Bengali film. Only their language restricts them."

Gold cup for EME

Bombay — Bombay Hockey Gold Cup was lifted by EME Jullundur, beating another Jullundur team, Punjab Police, by the aggregate of three goals to two in the double leg final.

EME have lifted the 24-year old cup for the first time. Punjab Police, who had won this cup 17 years ago, had also finished runners-up once before.

EME who had led 3-1 in the first leg just managed to hold on to win. Punjab Police reduced the margin of defeat with a late second-half penalty storke goal by right-half Sarjit Singh.

In the 22nd minute EME's centre-half Natarajan and Police centre-forward Kuldip clashed and EME's Kusha joined the arguments.

Smita Patil on award

New Delhi — Winner of the Best Actress Award for 1977 Smita Patil said that this success for her meant added responsibility, for now she has to live up to it.

This young actress form Maharashtra said in an interview when she heard about the award in a village post office in her home state she couldn't believe it. For "Bhumika" — for which she recieved the award - was only her third movie - the earlier two being "Nishant" and "Manthan" all directed by Shyam Benegal to whom she gave all the credit for bringing out the best in her. "He really worked on me," she said, adding that portraying Hansa Wadkar, "every great actress" of her time was not all that simple. "Bhumika" is based on the autobiography of Hansa Wadkar, a stage and screen star of Maharshtra in the forties.

For her mentor, Shyam Benegal, has bypassed her in his new picture "A flight of Pigeons" which apart form Shashi Kapoor and Shabana Azmai, has a new star in the making.

Nrissa Ali of Calcutta who already holds two different awards- national champion swimmer 1974 and "Miss India" 1976."

Bedi contract termination

New Delhi — The Cricketr's Association of London has filed a suit against Northhamptonshire for prematurely terminating the contract of Indian Captain Bishen Singh Bedi who played for the Country as a professional from 1972 until last year.

According to the contract, Bedi should have been served with a minimum of six weeks' notice, but he was given only three weeks, causing him inconvenience and financial loss.

Bedi, who is now in England, will be coaching promising school cricketers here in summer.

FILMS

JAIT RE JAIT [Marathi].

Directed by Jabbar Patel.

Though the narrative style of **Jait Re Jait** is theatrical, its technique is subdued like that of **Saamna**, Patel's first directorial venture. **Saamna** was a semi-political film-how political bosses of sugar cooperatives exploit the cooperative system for personal ends. **Jait Re Jait** is a musical. So far as the composition, singing and background music are concerned it is a family film, of the Mangeshkars-the Mangashkar sisters do the singing, the composer is Hridayanath Mangeshkar and the Producer Usha Mangeshkhar. Its enchanting folk tunes and mellifluous rendering more than compensate for its dramatic deficiencies. The outdoor locales are beautiful, and the hilly tracts rugedly scenic.

Smita Patil, who won the best actress award for her role of a glamorized actress in **Bhumika** is her real self in **Jait Re Jait**. With her dark complexion, slim and tall figure and sensuous look she fills the bill here, as a tribal belle. It is her first major off-beat role after **Manthan** in which she played the village milk-maid. In **Bhumika**, she assumes varied aspects, rather artificially: star, dancer, singer, daughter, beloved, mistress, etc. Mere posturing or showing off one's temper or just missing the dance beats does not entitle one to be the best actress. For that reason the award for her **Bhumika** role seems misplaced. If however she was to be rated above Lakshmi Krishna Moorthy (for her motherly role in **Go-dhuli** and its Kannada version), her part in **Jait Re Jait**, and not in **Bhumika**, should have been the justification.

The hill-climbing scene in **Jait Re Jait** is so badly acted, photographed and edited that the climax becomes an anti-climax. The romantic attachment of Smita Patil and Mohan Agashe is artistically expressed through the studied restraint of the acting, especially by the former.

Jait Re Jait earned the distinction of being adjudged the best Marathi film in the national film festival awards.

DARSHAK in Democratic World

Indira Congress wins

Ahmedabad — The Congress (I) has wrested the Khedbrahma (Reserved) Assembly seat in Gujarat from the Janata Party in the by-election held Wednesday, May 3.

Jagdish Damor (Cong-I) defeated his nearest Janata rival Shamalbhai Solanki, by a margin of 2021 votes in a four- cornered contest.

Ontario has reformed its family laws.

We think you and your family should know about them.

The purpose of the new legislation is to strengthen and encourage the role of the family by bringing outmoded and unfair laws into line with modern family life. Among the subjects covered are:

- Matrimonial property – the sharing of family assets, including the family home.
- Support – the mutual obligation of spouses to support themselves and their children.
- Domestic contracts – what they are and how to make them.
- Abolition of the status of illegitimacy – equal rights for all children.
- Marriages – age of consent and civil ceremonies.
- Succession rights – the rules for making wills and rights of surviving family members.

The new laws substantially change the rights and responsibilities of every person in Ontario.

The Ministry of the Attorney General has prepared an easy-to-understand pamphlet which summarizes the new law. For your free copy, write to:

Family Law
Ministry of the
Attorney General
18 King Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1C5

R. Roy McMurtry,
Attorney General

William Davis, Premier

Province of Ontario

Singh acquitted in house blast

By Paula McLaughlin

Ottawa - May 5: A 45-year-old Ottawa man charged with blowing up his home and two neighboring houses in the West End last summer was found not guilty by a county court jury after six hours of deliberation on May 4.

K.R. Singh of Baseline Road and formerly of 1393 Chatelain Ave., rushed to the arms of anxious family and friends crowded in the courtroom after the seven men and five women on the jury delivered their verdict.

Singh was charged with arson after an explosion and fire ripped through his Chatelain Avenue home and the two homes on either side of the house in the early morning of July 17. A report issued by the fire marshall's office concluded that the fire had been fuelled by as much as 20 gallons of gasoline, probably spread throughout the house by "someone intending to burn the house."

After the verdict was announced assistant Crown attorney George Ozioba told **The Journal** the police investigation into the case will not be reopened due to lack of evidence.

Conflicting testimony dominated the four-day trial before County Court Judge Charles Doyle.

Singh repeatedly told the jury he wasn't involved with the fire in any way, but Crown witness John Charles Lamoureux testified Singh had offered him money to burn the house down.

Singh said he and Lamoureux had quarrelled about two weeks before the fire about $60. Singh was refusing to pay Lamoureux for some car repairs. Lamoureux, threatened Singh, the father of five testified, and told him if he didn't pay up he would "lose more than $60."

During his final plea to the jury, defence counsel Robert Houston suggested to the panel members that "it doesn't stretch the capabilities of the imagination or the question of credibility to suggest that Lamoureux could have committed the deed. Of course he never expected what happened, he didn't know the whole place would blow. He probably just wanted to scare Singh."

Other witnesses' testimony varied also.

George Trudel, a neighbor whose home was destroyed in the blast, said he saw Singh return to the home the eve of the fire and was followed into the house by two bearded men.

Singh and defence witness Kameul Hivale told the court they went to the Singh house about 8.30 p.m. but only stayed for a few minutes and were not accompanied by two men.

Two other neighbors, Albert and Noella Villeneuve, - the blast demolished the house they had been living in for 35 years - testified they saw Singh inside the house about 10.30 p.m. July 16.

But several defence witnesses told the jury they were with Singh at the Church of the Seventh Day Adventists about 10.30 p.m. that night.

Ozioba contended throughout the trial that Singh had been living beyond his means and would stand to gain more financially if the house burned that if it were sold. (Eight days before the house exploded Singh had received a finalized offer of purchase on the property.)

Houston said the charge of arson and the court proceedings have stalled any coverage of loss the family might have gained from their insurance company. The Singhs are planning to start civil actions, he said.

The blast of the explosion reduced the Singh home to ruins within seconds and the Trudel and Villeneuve homes were extensively damaged in the resulting fire.

Windows in houses more than two blocks from the scene were shattered and the explosion could be heard more than five miles away.

[The Ottawa Journal].

Indian doctor in uphill fight

By Kazim Moosa

Ottawa, May 9: A Toronto doctor, originally from India, spent four gruelling hours Monday night trying to convince the Pembroke Civic Hospital board to grant him surgical privileges.

Without legal representation and charging racial prejudice among other claims, Dr. A.K. Bhattacharyya, took on the medical advisory committee lawyer Tony Garretto.

An official statement on what was decided was to be made today.

Last Friday, Health Minister Dennis Timbrell said he would look into charges that some surgeons at the Civic Hospital in Pembroke were threatening to withdraw their services if the board of directors granted operating privileges to the surgeon.

Alfred von Bistram, president of Action For Improved Medical Services (AIMS), said in an earlier interview that he has "strong evidence" of pressure being brought to bear on the board if the doctor were granted surgical privileges, a move which might reduce the surgical volume and income for the six local surgeons attached to the Civic.

"One doctor has already cancelled some of his surgery," von Bistram said.

During the hearing, Garretto produced as evidence three letters which he claimed showed cause why the hospital board should not extend privileges to the surgeon.

One letter stated that there was no record of the doctor having worked in a particular hospital, while a second indicated that the doctor who might have known of the surgeon's capabilities had retired.

A third letter suggested the doctor had some difficulty getting along with nursing and technical staff at a Toronto hospital. However, the latter correspondence also indicated that the surgeon had been under a great deal of personal stress and in no way did his personal problem interfere with his surgical skills.

Bachattacharyya, in summing up his argument, presented 11 more letters to the board, all of which recommended highly the doctor's qualifications including a very favorable recommendation from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

The surgeon said he was upset with Garretto's tactics of submitting only three references with very little basis to discredit him and not submitting to the board evidence indicating his favorable qualifications.

The surgeon, who received his formal medical training in Calcutta, also holds a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, Scotland, and holds a Canadian FRCS as well.

Journal

Indira meets son in jail

New Delhi: The former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who returned to the Capital after an election tour on May 5, went straight to the Tihar Jail where her son, Sanjay Gandhi, was sent for judicial custody a couple of hours earlier. She was with him for about 50 minutes.

Ontario Place. Opens May 20th.

That's entertainment. All day. Every day.

Music. Movies. Multi-media shows. Children's theatre. Marching bands. Dining, dancing and more. Starting Saturday, May 20th, Ontario Place is your best entertainment value.

The Forum offers daily live concerts on its revolving stage featuring some of the greatest names in classical, rock, country and popular music. And this year, there are matinees every week. The Bandshell presents a programme of contemporary Canadian groups, while Showboat takes music to the waterways. All this entertainment is free.

The super adventures of Children's Village and Waterplay provides free activity for youngsters and pre-schoolers. The three Pavilion Theatres have a dazzling new sound-slide presentation, a new Children's theatre and the unique "Reflections" experience. Cinesphere, the only theatre of its kind in Canada, presents three giant-screen film spectaculars.

You can dine in our beautiful Trillium Restaurant, or take your choice of three villages of restaurants and pubs with waterside decks, entertainment and dancing. There are boutiques, a toy shop, mini-golf, pedal boats, tour boats, HMCS Haida, artists, clowns, Ontario Place animals, a marina and more.

That's Ontario Place. That's entertainment. All day. Every Day.

Hours of Operation: Park opens at 10:30 a.m. – closes 1:00 a.m. (Sundays at 10:00 p.m.). Theatres open at 11:00 a.m. – last shows start at 9:30 p.m.

Daily summer program: (May 20 to Labour Day, Sept. 4) Park open seven days a week.

Weekend Autumn Program: September 9 to October 9, Park open Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays only.

General Admission*
Adults (18 and over) $2.50 - $1.00 after 9:00 p.m.
Juniors (13 to 17), Children (12 and under) $1.50.
Child (12 and under, with adult) 50¢
Senior citizens admitted free of charge.

*NOTE: Some prices and policies change during the Canadian National Exhibition, August 18 – September 4.

Public transportation provided by buses, streetcars, GO Commuter service and by separate fare express buses to and from subway.
Parking available on mainland and East Island.

Miscellaneous
For the handicapped or infirm, wheelchairs are available free on request: call (416) 965-7819. Pets, skateboards and bicycles are not permitted on the grounds.

Ontario Place, 955 Lakeshore Blvd. West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6K 3B9 (416) 965-7711.

ontario place

A Public Corporation of the Government of Ontario. Ministry of Industry and Tourism. Honourable John R. Rhodes, Minister.

Successful

By Jaya Subramaniam

Mukul annual cultural ramme held on Sunday, May at the auditorium of Sir B Borden High School, turne afternoon into a memora event. A number of ch performed drama, dance, sp music etc. in Hindi lan which is a great achieveme their part.

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Desai to

New Delhi — Prime M Morarji Desai, who is leavi the United States in Jun have discussions with Minister James Callagh London where he will spe days.

Desai will reach New Y June 8 to attend the UN Session on Disarmament ing on June 9. The

Production

New Delhi, May 15 (UN total production of ele items increased from Rs. million in 1976 to Rs. million in 1977 recording a of 24 per cent in financial on the basis of current Further, the radio rec television receivers and ments, which account sizeable proportion of th electronics production in have registered an appr reduction in price, say Annual Report of the Depa of Electronics for the

Cultural

Centre for intercultural of Dawson College, Montr offered the facilities of the for any intercultural stud vites. Accordingly, the fo have been arranged (a sch learning Bengali language sports facilities, (c) Sch learning the basics of music and dances.

The cultural centre is op from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p Sundays at Dawson Colleg Sherbrooke Street East, M (couple of blocks east of B

Should you wish to volun contribute your efforts/ and to be in the cultural affairs, please contact 67 672-9459 and 653-1138. T volunteer of the cultural you must be member Cultural Association of Inc

...ill fight

...qualifications including a very favorable recommendation from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

The surgeon said he was upset with Garretto's tactics of submitting only three references with very little basis to discredit him and not submitting to the board evidence indicating his favorable qualifications.

The surgeon, who received his formal medical training in Calcutta, also holds a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, Scotland, and holds a Canadian FRCS as well.

Journal

...ndira meets son in jail

New Delhi: The former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who returned to the Capital after an election tour on May 5, went straight to the Tihar Jail where her son, Sanjay Gandhi, was sent for judicial custody a couple of hours earlier. She was with him for about 50 minutes.

...very day.

Ontario Place!
...a and more.
...nment. All day.

...00 a.m. (Sundays ...
...s start at 9:30 a.m.)
...4) Park open seven ...
...9 Parking Satur...

Successful Mukul program

By Jaya Subramanian

Mukul annual cultural programme held on Sunday, May 14th at the auditorium of Sir Robert Borden High School, turned the afternoon into a memorable event. A number of children performed drama, dance, speech, music etc. in Hindi language which is a great achievement on their part.

Ever so innocent and natural as only children can be, they flew past like butterflies. On stage they looked gorgeous in their Indian costumes, off stage they were like Tulips and Roses. Proud parents beamed with joy to hear the little ones speak Hindi. Many fathers were busy with their movie cameras and what not to catch a snap of their lovely darlings.

All these are due to the efforts of the selfless teachers. No amount of praise can do justice to the work they have put in. For instance the costumes and stage setting for Sita Swayamwaram were almost professional.

The snacks served at the conclusion of the programme plus the cheese cubes almost made a meal. These again were prepared by the teachers and the parents.

The teachers are devoted souls and they are, Indu Mehta, Sarita Jindal, Malati Kesarwani, Prem Srivastava, Anju Bhargava, Saroj Nigam and Raj Dilawri.

I was eavesdropping on somebody's conversation and I understand that there are other language schools - Bengali, Gujarati and Punjabi. Well, this is just excellent and what is more, I have heard from the South India Cultural Association that there may be schools for Tamil and Telugu in the near future.

Finally, I noticed that the children sang both the Indian and the Canadian national anthems very fluently, and I did not fail to notice that the majority of the audience could not sing the Canadian National Anthem. Now, parents how about learning "Oh Canada"?

Oil drilling off Kerala

Cochin, May 15 (UNI): Drilling for oil off the Kerala coast is progressing on schedule with the "Discoverer 3", an American drilling ship engaged by the oil and natural gas commission, spudding an exploratory well 300 metres deep during the last eleven days.

More wells will be drilled once oil is struck. It is planned to drill the exploratory well to 1,300 metres but oil could be struck even at lower depths of 600 to 1000 metres, experts predict.

Drilling began on April 16 when petroleum minister H.N. Bahuguna inaugurated the exploration abroad the ship, anchored 60 km north west of Cochin port.

Sixty Indians and Americans, including fifteen engineers of the ONGC are engaged in the drilling operations.

Three Indian Air Force helicopters shuttle from Cochin to the drilling ship every day ferrying crew and equipment.

Desai to meet Callaghan

New Delhi — Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who is leaving for the United States in June will have discussions with British Minister James Callaghan in London where he will spend two days.

Desai will reach New York on June 8 to attend the UN Special Session on Disarmament beginning on June 9. The Prime Minister will be in Washington on June 12 and 13 when he is expected to take up with President Jimmy Carter the question of U.S. supplies of enriched uranium to the Tarapur plant, near Bombay. He is likely to leave for home on June 14. 30

income tax arrears exceed rs 7,200 million

Production of electronic items up

New Delhi, May 15 (UNI): The total production of electronic items increased from Rs. 4,100 million in 1976 to Rs. 5,085 million in 1977 recording a growth of 24 per cent in financial terms on the basis of current prices. Further, the radio receivers, television receivers and instruments, which account for a sizable proportion of the total electronics production in India, have registered an appreciable reduction in price, says the Annual Report of the Department of Electronics for the year 1977-78.

The radio receiver industry achieved a production of 3.76 million sets during the year, representing a growth of 26 per cent in physical terms. The highlight was a 50 per cent increase in production in the small scale sector, namely, from 1.30 million sets in 1976 to 2.00 million sets in 1977. The small scale sector, for the first time since the setting up of radio receiver industry, surpassed the production of radio receivers by the large scale units.

Cultural centre in Montreal

CULTURAL SHOWS

'Chitrangada' of Rabindra Nath Tagore, will be performed professionally at Smith Auditorium, Loyola College, on June 03, 1978, tentatively.

Centre for intercultural studies of Dawson College, Montreal has offered the facilities of the college for any intercultural study activities. Accordingly, the following have been arranged (a school for learning Bengali language, (b) sports facilities, (c) School of learning the basics of Indian music and dances.

The cultural centre is operative from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Sundays at Dawson College, 1001 Sherbrooke Street East, Montreal (couple of blocks east of Berri).

Should you wish to volunteer to contribute your efforts/talents and to be in the cultural centre affairs, please contact 678-6774, 672-9459 and 653-1138. To be a volunteer of the cultural centre you must be a member of the Cultural Association of India.

Polar satellite planned

New Delhi — India may put a 600-kg remote sensing satellite in the polar orbit, according to Dr. Brahm Prakash, Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.

This will be different from Aryabhatta-II, the second satellite scheduled to be launched this year whose orbit would be inclined to the equator.

The polar orbiting satellite will go over the north and south poles with the earth turning underneath, thus enabling strips of the earth's surface to be photographed like the American Landsat satellites.

The new satellite would be launched in India, using a variation of the SLV-3 rocket now under development.

"The project is under detailed study," Prakash told a seminar here.

Canadian condemns

Bombay - A Canadian Professor of History from Ontario has racially condemned the Government of Canada "for its racial treatment of citizens of India origin", in Canada.

He is John Henderson, Professor of History, University of Waterloo, Ontario.

In a letter to the mass circulation 10-edition Indian Express, Professor Henderson says: "I am a Canadian touring your lovely country for the first time. The past few months have been an intense experience for me -- the splendour of your country and your people, your rich cultural heritage of which you are justly proud. I see why my Indian friends in Canada can never dream of parting with all this".

Professor Henderson says that he has been repeatedly questioned in India about racism in Canada. He goes on to observe: "While the persecution of Indians is all round and has reached new height, you will derive some pleasure from the fact that Indians in Canada are not taking all this lying down, but are militantly fighting back in self-defence against the racist attack, no matter which direction it comes from and what form it takes. In this, they have the full backing of a lot of ordinary people of Canada.

Complaints against police

Complaints Against the Police, a pamphlet published by the Metro Police Force, outlines the courses of action available to citizens who wish to make a legitimate complaint against a member of the Police Force, and is available at all Police Stations. Should you wish to complain regarding the conduct or attitude of a member of the Police Force do it as quickly as possible, especially if you have been assaulted. The police are only authorized to use as much physical force as is necessary to contain someone who is under arrest. In the event of assault it is necessary to have any injuries officially documented and photographed.

As outlined in the pamphlet, your complaint can be registered with the Duty Staff Sergeant at any Police Station. There, you can obtain from him a written acknowledgement of the complaint. You may also send a letter outlining the circumstances of your complaint to the Police Commission or to the Chief of Police at 590 Jarvis Street, Toronto M4Y 2H5. Your letter will be acknowledged in writing immediately. If you believe criminal charges should be laid, consult a Justice of the Peace at Room 6, Old City Hall. In any case, you can consult a lawyer for advice as to whether or not there is cause for any civil action. However the Complaint Bureau is always willing to assist you in preparing a case, and maintains one officer for the sole purpose of courtroom work.

Zorastrians to challenge zoning

By James Jefferson

Members of Ontario's tiny Zoroastrian community say they are being discriminated against by the borough of North York, and they're going to court next week to try to prove their point.

The Zoroastrians, adherents of a monotheistic religion formed in what is now Iran between the sixth and ninth centuries B.C. and later taken by emigrants to India, have agreed to purchase a mansion at Bayview and Steeles Avenues for use as a temple.

When residents of the neighborhood found out about the plan, they petitioned North York Council, which passed a spot zoning bylaw in February forbidding any use except single-family residential in the area immediately surrounding the mansion.

The new bylaw creates an exception to a borough zoning bylaw permitting churches or religious institutions in all single-family residential districts.

Several residents appeared at a Council meeting earlier this week and said their opposition was based on fears of traffic and parking problems they say the temple would create.

One woman said the trouble has already started. Clara Turk, who said she lives next door to the mansion (once the home of the Mazo de la Roche, author of the Jalna series of novels), told Council her street, Creckside Road, has already been disrupted by Zoroastrians coming to look at their future temple.

She said she approached some of them to ask what they were doing. "They would not even speak to me," she said. "They were speaking some language which I did not understand. I can't even pronounce the name."

Other residents, and several members of Council, hotly denied any suggestion that discrimination is involved.

Jack Lambert, president of the Bayview-Steeles Ratepayers Association, said his group would be opposed to any institutional use of the mansion, and added that residents would "welcome anyone of any faith" to occupy the house as a single family home.

He said the concern with any institution is that added traffic would create a hazard for children in the area.

The Zoroastrian Society of Ontario argues that that won't happen.

[Globe and Mail]

Politicians as ambassadors

New Delhi May 15 External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee told the Lok Sabha that the Janata Government would try to send as many public men abroad as possible as Indian Ambassadors.

Vajpayee said the Government was keen to increase the number of ambassadors from scheduled castes and tribes and asked members to suggest suitable names.

He said since becoming External Affairs Minister, he had appointed nine public men as Ambassador and all of them were doing well.

On his experience with service officers as ambassadors Vajpayee said: "It is both bitter and sweet." Some officers were doing a very good job and some not so good. The working of publicmen was, on the whole, good.

Asked if a teetotaller was given preference Vjapayee replied: "To some extent."

Tamil Nadu envoy in Delhi

Madras, May 15 Chief Minister M. Gramchandran announced that R. Rajaram, a former DMK Minister, was being posted to New Delhi as special representative of the Tamil Nadu Government.

This is the first time that a state government has named a "fullfledged ambassador" to the Indian Capital.

Rajaram was defeated in the 1977 assembly elections by his ANADMK opponent. Following his defeat he resigned from the DMK and was one for the founders of the short-lived Makkal DMK. He has now joined AIADMK.

During the DMK regime, Rajaram, as a member of the state cabinet, used to make frequent trips to New Delhi.

Chandrachud regrets

New Delhi — Chief Justice of India Y.V. Chandrachud, wished he had the courage to quit when he had to deliver a judgement in the harbeas corpus case during the Emergency.

But, he maintained, the judgement, which upheld the executive's right to deprive a citizen of his liberty during the Emergency, was a correct interpretations of the law of the land.

Chandrachud, who was the guest speaker at a luncheon meeting of the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry regretted that he did not want to throw dust into the eyes of the people by delivering a diluted judgement.

"We honestly believed that this was the law," he said but the same time regretted the judgement. "I regret that I did not have the courage to lay down my office and tell the people that well, this is the law," he said.

Chandrachud said the autocratic onslaught on people's liberties could not be stopped by blaming the judges, but by amending the Constitution.

It was for the people, he said, to go to the legislature and tell them, "if you can't govern, don't govern. But if you must govern, do it fairly."

The only way to defend people's liberty was to let the courts go into all the greivances of the people. He urged professionals to devote some of their time and energy to such larger problems.

The law as it stood today did not permit the courts to go into the merits of a detention. The judge must accept the vaguest of allegations given by the executive by way of grounds of detention.

He said he personally felt that there ought to be a provision in the Constitution for detention, but not in the ordinary law of the land as the Government had "unsuccessfully sought to do."

Mrs. Pranati SenGupta

There are only a few weeks to go before summer officially arrives. But during May the spicy smell of Gobi Masalam brings summer a little closer.

GOBI MASALAM

1 large cauliflower
2 medium onions
2 green chilies
1 tbsp. chopped ginger
5 large cloves of garlic
½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. garam masala
1 tsp. ground cumin
1 large tomato, peeled and chopped
A pinch of each nutmeg, turmeric, ground cardamom and sugar
½ cup yogurt
¼ cup finely chopped coriander leaves
4 tbsp. of each oil and ghee
4 tbsp. sliced almond
Coriander leaves

Clean the cauliflower and boil it whole up right in a small amount of salted water until tender but still firm (about 6 to 8 minutes). Drain and keep it aside. Grind together the onion, ginger, garlic and chili. Mix in ground spices, salt and sugar. Heat the oil cook the spice mixture slowly until oil separates. Add tomato, cook another 2 minutes over low heat stirring add yogurt, continue cooking another few minutes until the mixture is thick and creamy. Stir the almond and coriander leaves. Put cauliflower upside down and stuff the aromatic mixture between the flowerets without breaking them from the stalk. Now place it upright in a large pan and pour the rest of the mixture over it. Sprinkle ghee on top. Cover with foil and bake 350F. oven for about 20 minutes or until the masala soaks into the cauliflower. Uncover and cook another 5 minutes. This should be served whole or cut into flowerets. Garnish with some more chopped coriander leaves and almonds. Serve hot or cold.

DEATHS

Badminton star

Varanasi — Suresh Goel, former national champion and one of the world's leading Badminton players of his time, died of a heart attack here with his badminton boots on. He was 35.

Goel was on the badminton court of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) for his regular practice but fell unconcious while he was warming up. He was rushed to the hospital on the campus where the doctors declared him dead.

Goel came into prominence in 1957 when he won the National Junior Badminton Championship at Hyderabad and retained the title the following year at Gauhati.

Marathi poet

Pune (Poona)— Noted Marathi writer and poet Vitthal Dattatraya Ghate died here. The name of 84-year old Ghate was popular in every literature Marathi home.

Ex-diplomat

New Delhi — Diplomat and author M.R.A Baig died in his sleep at his New Delhi residence recently. He was 73.

Baig held several diplomatic assignments in Djakarta Manila and Tahran. He was chief of Protocol from 1953 to 1960. His books included "Indifferent Saddles" and "The Muslim Dilemma" in India.

Noted actor

Madras — Noted stage and film actor T.R. Mahalingam died in Sholavandan in Madurai district recently. He was 54.

Mahaligam, who is survived by his wife, son and three daughters, recently cut short his tour of Malaysia and Singapore because of ill-health.

Beginning his acting career at the age of 14, Mahaligam appeared in more than 50 films and had his own drama troupe which staged his plays through out Tamil Nadu.

Hindi writers

Varanasi — Famous Hindi novelist and dramatist Sarvanand died April 24 after a prolonged illness. He was 63.

Sarvanand was the only son of former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Sampurnanad.

Allahbad — Popular Hindi novelist Banu Grey who wrote under the pen name of "Banu" died here following a heart attack.

He was in his mid-forties.

Punjabi poet

Chandigarh — Prominent Punjabi poet Mohan Singh died at Ludhiana and Punjab Minister Prakash Singh Badal immediately ordered a state funeral for the poet.

Winner of the Sahitya Academy award, the death of the 73-year old poet was described in literary circles as "an end of an era."

Jnanpith Award for Ashapurna Devi

New Delhi — The 12th annual Jnanpith award was presented by President Nilam Sanjiva Reddy to Mrs. Ashapurna Devi for her novel "Prathama Pratishruti" at a glittering ceremony at Vigyan Bhavan.

The 69-year Bengali novelist thus became the first woman recipient of the country's prestigious literary prize which carries a cash award of Rs. 100,000.

According to the citation, her novel, adjuged the best creative literary work of the period 1960-69, is a "chronicle of the gradual emancipation of Bengali womanhood from the early years of the 19th century onwards."

Presenting the award, Reddy described men and women of letters as conscience- keepers of the nation who had to strive vigorously to create a climate conducive to national unity and progress.

Widowed only last month, Ashapurna Devi has been writing for 40 years and has published more than a hundred novels. But Ashapurna Devi would, probably, have been far less profilic had her husband ever complained about having to sleep with lights on.

Night after night she sat up writing to keep deadlines long after her husband had dropped off to sleep. She would switch off the light at dawn when she heard the switching of sweepers washing the streets outside her house in Calcutta.

The frail Bengali authoress smiles good-naturedly as someone narrates this as an instance of her will to excell both as housewife and author. But when she speaks it is to say that more than anything else the above illustrates what an understanding husband she had.

"With mother, her home always came first," says her son. Friends around echo this sentiment, as do many of the articles written about her recently.

She looks the middle-class Bengali grandmother she is, greying hair flowing down her back, her sari a palin white cotton with a thin green border.

"Prathama Pratisruti" is the first novel of a trilogy. It deals with a woman of Rural Bengal, who after 30 years of marriage leaves her husband for his betrayal of principle.

But its author is no staunch libber. Ask her if women are more emancipated today. And she replies that they have made some progress. They now have some measure of legal and economic emancipation, but human dignity will not come unless men in the society have been economically emancipated, she remarks.

She adds that while child marriage in her time proved to be a lifelong bondage foe many a hapless woman, today's divorce-made society is hardly the answer. "When there is no affection left in the relationship, there is no meaning in staying together - but you can't break up a marriage without an attempt at adjustment. Think of the children."

Ashapurna Devi started writing when she was 13. She obviously never felt constrained at having seen almost nothing of the outside, world. For most of her life she wrote at night, after the day's chores were done. "Now she can write at any time of the day she chooses, and does says her son.

She also travels a lot more now. Her first train journey was made when she was 42. Her marriage as a 15 year old to a man she had never seen before endured because we had built up a relationship.

The other award winners so far have been G. Shankara Kurup, Tarashankar Bandopadhya, K.V. Puttappa and Umashankar Joshi jointly, Sumitranandan Pant, Firaq Gorakhpuri, Vishwanath Satyanarayana, Bishnu Dey, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, D. R. Bendre and Gopinath Mohany jointly, V.S. Khandekar and P.V. Akilandam.

Chinese remittances

New Delhi — The Reserve Bank of India has lifted its ban on monetary transactions with China to facilitate foreign firms' remittances to finance bilateral trade.

Socialist journalist

Durg — Socialist leader, freedom fighter and journalist Khudiram Kashyap died here last month.

Kashyap, who was jailed several times during the freedom movement, represented several Hindi newspapers in this district town. He was 55.

Press photographer

New Delhi — Babu Ram Gupta, a former staff photographer of "The Hindustan Times" died here recently after a heart attack. He was 65.

He has been a familiar figure in Delhi's journalistic circles for over three decades.

Indian economists active

Several Indian economists in Canada are actively participating in the Canadian Economics Association meeting to be held from May 28 to 30 in London, Ontario. Among them are R. Tandon from Institute for Social and Economic Change in Bangalore, B. Raj from Wilfrid Laurier University, M. Islam from Concordia, A.S. Rav from Department of Employment and Immigration, N.K. Choudhry from University of Toronto, R.K. Sahi from Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, R.S. Khemani from Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada and B.A. Majumdar from Cleveland State University. Some of them are presenting papers and the others either chair sessions or discuss papers.

Nacoi research project

NACOI, Ottawa Chapter, is in the process of carrying out a research project on the coverage of news about South Asians in the media in Ottawa. Funds have been granted for this project by the Federal Government.

A special committee is working out the details of this. The committee consists of Navin Parekh, Prof. V. Subramaniam, Dr. (Mrs.) Nipa Banerjee, Dr. Joseph Kattakal and Dr. Bhagwan Shah. The committee also co-opts several others from sister associations. Two research assistants will be recruited for the summer from among graduate students in the social sciences.

Violinist Rukmini

Another team of Carnatic musicians is on a cultural tour of North America. The team includes singer Kalyanaraman, chela of late maestro G.N. Balasubrahmanyam.

Rukmini, the accomplished Mysore violinist and Mridangam accompaniment.

The South India Cultural Association is considering the arrangement of a violin solo concert by Rukmini early in June in Ottawa. Details will be announced as soon as a firm arrangement is made.

Violinist Rukmini is among the top ten violin players of India and the leading lady violinist in Carnatic music.

Dal resolutions

The following resolutions were passed at the joint meeting of the Shiromani Akali Dal Canada Inc. and the International Council of Sikhs Inc. held at Toronto on April 29, 1978.

1. This meeting of the Sikhs of Canada feel deep sorrow and express heartfelt sympathies to the families and relatives of the Martyrs of Amritsar holocaust; (Baisakhi 1978) and resolve to donate maximum financial help to their families.

2. We urge the Government of Punjab and the Government of India to take stern action against the anti-Sikh Narankaries; Police and other parties responsible for these killings. We demand from both the Governments to ban organizations, parties and sects publically slandering any religion and responsible for spreading hate among masses.

SELECTED BOOKS FROM INDIA

1. Indian Dancing.....Sarabhai	$2.00
2. Musical Instruments of India....Krishnaswami	$2.00
3. Everyday Art of India...Bussabarger	$4.50
4. Indian Fairy Tales....Jacobs	$3.00
5. Panchantra [3 vols.]	$3.00
6. Gita Govinda	$2.00
7. The Unchaste...Thakazhi	$1.50
8. The Beloved....Uroob	$1.50
9. The Dreamer....Krishan Chander	$1.50
10. Trappings of Gold....Manoj Dasa	$1.50
11. Lawley Road & other stories....R.K. Narayan	$1.50

Send payment with order to: THULASI, BOX 7850, STANFORD, CA. 94305, U.S.A.

Future of

Engineers returning to Ind
start small scale industries c
very successful, provided
make adequate preparation
forehand and have patienc
deal with various govern
agencies, according to S.R.
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vice, Chicago. He was lead
discussion on "Appropriate
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in India"; organized by
Students Association, Purdu
iversity.

Hiremath emphasized tha
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To start a small scale indus
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information is available
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York. It is very helpful to di
one's plans with not only
government agencies invo
but also with successful
preneurs who have much

Plan to

New Delhi, May 15 (UNI
department of electronics
drawn up a plan to bring
well qualified Indian scient
the field of electronics
abroad to help boost elect
industry in India.

The department propo
utilise the services of
scientists in various public
organizations.

Assistance will be provi

Nelson A. Rockefeller,
Minister, Mexan

rna Devi

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We urge the Government of njab and the Government of ia to take stern action against anti-Sikh 'Naraintaries'. Police d other parties responsible for se killings. We demand from h the Governments to ban anizations, parties and sects olically slandering any religion responsible for spreading e among masses.

BOOKS DIA

	$2.00
arwani	$2.00
	$4.50
	$3.00
	$3.00
	$2.00
	$1.50
	$1.50
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	$1.50
Narayan	$1.50

BOX 7458, STANFORD,

Future of small industry

Engineers returning to India to start small scale industries can be very successful, provided they make adequate preparations beforehand and have patience to deal with various government agencies, according to S.R. Hiremath of India Development Service, Chicago. He was leading a discussion on "Appropriate Technology and Small Scale Industry in India", organized by India Students Association, Purdue University.

Hiremath emphasized that one must be very careful in choosing the product to be manufactured. It should be technologically rich, an import substitute or one having export potential. Government agencies can give loans up to 95 per cent towards the capital expenditure, besides providing other incentives. Also, an entrepreneur returning from abroad who has saved some money in foreign exchange has an edge over his counterpart residing in India, because the former can import materials, if needed, from out of his savings.

To start a small scale industry, it is very important to be familiar with all the details of the process of manufacture. One should also be aware of the various regulations, e.g. which items may or may not be imported, whether or not foreign collaboration is permitted, etc. A lot of such information is available with Indian Investment Center, New York. It is very helpful to discuss one's plans with not only the government agencies involved, but also with successful entrepreneurs who have much experience to share. India Development Service can often provide contacts with such persons.

Turning to Appropriate Technology, Hiremath stressed the fact that India is a predominantly rural, labor-rich, capital-scarce society. Responding to a question, he pointed out that agriculture alone cannot sustain seventy-five per cent of the Indian population, nor keep them gainfully employed.

Thus, we have to set up village industries to produce various goods, using a technology appropriate to the prevailing conditions. For example, the nitrogenous fertilizers, now being produced by big, capital-intensive units, and still out of the reach of the poorer farmers, would be better manufactured by bio-gas plants set up in the countryside. "It is a pity that our most prestigious engineering institutes devote so little attention to systems of this kind". Hiremath told about 35 graduate students and professors participating in the discussion. "Unless the people-villagers, teachers, scientists, economists-themselves rise and get involved in this work, nothing can be achieved" he added.

Some examples of pioneering rural projects started by interested groups were discussed at the meeting. Hiremath said he would go to India next year to work closely with these groups.

Readers interested in the work of India Development Service may write to the organisation at P.O. Box 980, Chicago, Illinois 60690.

Plan to boost electronics

(new Delhi, May 16 (UNI): The department of electronics has drawn up a plan to bring back well qualified Indian scientists in the field of electronics from abroad to help boost electronics industry in India.

The department proposes to utilise the services of these scientists in various public sector organizations.

Assistance will be provided to each of them in the form of indigenous and imported capital equipment worth up to Rs. 25 lakhs. These testing and development centres will help promote quality and reliability of electronic items produced in small scale sector. These testing and development centres will be integrated with the national network for testing and calibration.

Nelson A. Rockefeller, Governor of new York (USA) with Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, in New Delhi.

Janata heading for a crash

By M.G. Lall

By the time the lines appear in print the Janata Government would be 14 months old. These 14 months have witnessed events which should gladden the heart of Mrs. Indira Gandhi and her camp followers.

And for this situation the top Janata Party leaders alone have to be blamed.

After the first flush of enthusiasm and the goodwill Janata earned by restoring civil liberties, problems piled up to highlight the fact that Desai was not leading his team and had reconciled himself to being a coordinator. Collective responsibility is all very well but the Prime Minister must be recognized as the undisputed leader of his team.

While intra-party disputes, in reality quarrels among the constituents, held the centre of the state the Government's maladroitness and incompetence in dealing with a number of problems came into sharp focus. An early issue was the question of atrocities against Harijans, culminating in ugly incidents. Morarji Desai's own obsession with peripheral problems like prohibition and Hindi did not help matters, nor was his public response, that he would resign or offer satyagraha if the atrocities against Harijans did not stop.

"CHARAN SINGH PROBLEM"

The main thing that appears to be afflicting the Janata Party is the "Charan Singh problem". He has been the main factor in creating the unstable situation in which the Janata Government and Party today find themselves.

Having arrived at a neat arrangement with the Jana Sangh to share power in the States Janata won in the first Assembly elections, Charan Singh was particularly sensitive to any threat faced by his proteges.

He seemed to have become more and more convinced that Morarji Desai was siding with his opponents.

ACCUSATIONS OPENLY TRADED

A new stage in the intensity of the quarrels among the Janata constituents was reached with Charan Singh granting an interview to a news weekly publicly to make his charges, shortly to be followed by Jagjivan Ram granting a similar interview. The name-calling to public reached a level which seems to have sobered the leadership into forming a Committee of the Big Five to resolve problems. The realization came too late in the day, for the committee failed to find durable solutions in the face of mutual bitterness and distrust.

ROLE OF JANA SANGH

Throughout the period the Jana Sangh which is the "strong arm" of the Janata Party has aligned itself with Charan Singh in the States and has been lending support and strength to Prime Minister Morarji Desai at the Centre. So far the Jana Sangh leaders have avoided doing anything which would rock the Janata boat beyond the limits of safety. They have been quietly consolidating their strength in the Government and in the Party.

It was thus particularly significant that the Jana Sangh leaders broke their own rules by joining the fray. First, A.B. Vajpayee, who had wisely chosen to devote the better part of his attention to foreign policy issues, threw caution to the winds by proclaiming that he would leave his post if he failed to improve the functioning of the Janata Government in three months; since he made his statement on April 2, he has left himself little time to retrace his steps.

FACTIONALISM THEN AND NOW

During the long Congress regime, too, factionalism was a common problem in State politics. However, in the Congress scheme of things such problems were sorted out by patch work, compromise or by the imposition of a new leader by the Centre.

In the Janata conglomerate, resolving factional quarrels in the States is a more difficult operation because the Central leaders consider attacks on their proteges as attacks on themselves.

There is obvious hesitation in Delhi in grasping the nettle of having a Janata Government without Charan Singh and those of his followers who choose to stay with him. Because if Charan Singh goes, the permutations and combinations of new alignments are endless.

In so far as Charan Singh's wealth problem has weakened his position, Jagjivan Ram's hands have been strengthened.

MRS. GANDHI'S ELOQUENT SILENCES

Mrs. Gandhi's "get-well" card to Charan Singh was a telling reminder that she is waiting in the wings to grasp the next opportunity in her heroic, if vain, attempt to return to power. For the present, she needs only sit and wait, leaving it to Janata to make all the mistakes, after successfully politicizing the issue of her own prosecution.

To sum up the situation as it exists today, the clear trend is for the Janata constituents to marshal their forces for possible realignments. Each leader is seeking comfort in his own original grouping. Instead of an integration of the constituents, we are witnessing a return to the old parties. It is as if each Janata constituent had strapped on his anticipation of a crash.

In all this turmoil, Prime Minister Morarji Desai has been meeting all problems with a stoical calm. However, his friends and well-wishers have been privately reminding him of sang-froid alone cannot resolve difficult problems compounded by incompatable and prickly personalities.

A leader must lead. He must occasionally be ruthless. Desai's chief role so far has been that of a coordinator. And there has not been much coordination in evidence either in the Party or in the Government.

Afghan leader

New Delhi — Leader of the April 1978 coup d'etat in Afghanistan Colonel Abdul Qadir was under treatment in a New Delhi military hospital about three weeks before he staged what was the second coup, in less than five years, in this country, according to informed sources.

Qadir was a member of an Afghan military goodwill mission which arrived here March 19 on a ten-day visit during which its members met Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram and senior military and defence officials.

While other members of the mission left for home on March 28, Qadir stayed behind for another fortnight for medical treatment. The nature of his ailment was not known.

Bank for sustained aid

New Delhi - The "aid India" consortium meets in Paris on June 8 and 9 to consider India's external assistance requirements for 1978-79.

The World Bank in its report to the consortium is believed to have emphasised that notwithstanding the improvements in its reserves, India's developmental needs call for a sustained flow of external aid with an annual increase in real terms.

The World Bank and the IMF have taken note that India is not in need of any immediate balance of payments assistance. In fact the level of the reserves is such that India has to consider repurchase of the only outstanding obligation to IMF, namely the 1975 oil facility drawing of Rs. 207 crores.

This drawing has not been repaid so far because of the subsidised interest rate applicable to the 1975 oil facility drawing, i.e. two to three per cent. But under the new rules, the fund can determine the point with reference to a country's level of resources at which such obligations should be purchased by the country concerned.

India has closed the year 1977-78 with new aid commitments exceeding two billion dollars, the highest for any year except 1975-76. But aid utilisation had declined during the year. Some of the consortium countries particularly the U.K. and France, are known to have been urging effective utilisation of their assistance. India is buying six ships out of U.K.'s aid.

The bank's annual report, which will be before the consortium meeting, is understood to have made a favourable appraisal of the economic trends but notes that private investment is stagnating and needs a push. It has welcomed the stepping up of public investment proposed in the budget and the development strategy outlined in the draft plan documents allocating 40 per cent of the resources for agriculture and rural development.

CPI,CPM may join

Cochin — With people's loyalties changing fast in India, there are possibilities of the CPM and the CPI forming a united front with other leftist forces at the national level for providing a third alternative to the Janata and the Congress (I).

This was stated here by N.E. Balaram, secretary of the Kerala unit of the Communist Party of India (CPI) in answer to questions at the Ernakulam Press Club.

In Kerala, Balaram said, there were no obstacles in the way of his party and the CPM functioning jointly. However, many things required to be done before there was actual merger between the two parties.

Balaram said that his party also would welcome the CPM joining the ruling United Front in Kerala, of which his party was a constituent.

Asked whether his party would quit the coalition ministry to pave the way for unification of both the leftist parties, "There cannot be any precondition as far as the CPI is concerned", he said.

Balaram said his party considered both Janata and Congress (I) as equal enemies.

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Good-bye food imports

New Delhi — The possibility of India having to revert to foodgrains imports in the coming five years is "not only remote but non-existant", according to Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Surjit Singh Barnala.

In an interview, Barnala said that at a conservative estimate it would be easy to increase foodgrains production by five to six million tonnes every year in the next few years. He based this optimism on the fact that 17 million hectares of land would be provided with irrigation facilities in the current five year plan and fertiliser consumption was expected to increase by 700,000 to 800,000 tonnes per annum. Even if 80 per cent of the additional irrigation and fertilisers were used to grow food crops this would mean an annual increase of five to six million tonnes.

Mr. Barnala said that the expansion of irrigation facilities was an assurance against the vagaries of the monsoon. More irrigation would reduce dependence on rainfall. The immediate effects of this were being reflected in the all time high production figure of 125 million tonnes this year even though the country had been hit by calmaties like the cyclones floods and hailstorms.

It was a reflection of the comfortable food situation that India had exported 70,000 tonnes of wheat to Vietnam 50,000 tonnes of rice to Afghanistan and 50,00 tonnes of rice Indonesia. Repayment of the Russian wheat loan had also begun. This did not mean he said that India will become an exporter of foodgrains but it indicated "that there is no reason to doubt our capacity to ensure self- sufficiency in food grains", he said.

Indo-Pak exchange

Amrisar - Visits to religious shrines, attraction of Indian films and above all the remunerative business of smuggling attracted Pakistan nationals to India, it was revealed here when the two neighbouring countries exchanged 73 detenus.

Syed Raza, a Lahore student, said he crossed into India to visit the world famous Jama Masjid, built by Moghul Emperor Shah Jehan, in 1973 when he was arrested.

Shehzada, also of Lahore, said he had entered India in 1976 via Ferozepur to see some Indian films.

But a notorious smuggler, appropriately named Saudagar, who has spent ten years in Indian jails, told newsmen at the border that he would be back soon.

"There is nothing more lucrative than smuggling," said the 60-year old Saudagar who also goes by the name of Ali. He said after an eye operation in Pakistan "I shall be back at your service."

Saudagar entered India two years ago to recover his dues from his Indian counterparts, but instead of receiving cash he found himself in the cooler.

Among the Indians repatriated by Pakistan were nine members of the crew of MVS "Narappasa" which, on a voyage from Iran to India, sank near Karachi. They lost all their belongings including identity papers which fact was later confirmed by the Indian shipping authorities.

Nuclear facilities in India

India is acknowledged to be one of the world's nine most advanced countries in the field of atomic energy. The beginnings of the country's atomic programme go back to 1948 when the Indian Atomic Energy Commission was set up.

The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is India's national cnetre for research and development in nuclear energy and related dicipline. It is the largest single scientific establishment in India. It has four research reactors (ASSARA, CIRCUS, ZERLINA, PURNIMA). A fifth reactor is now under progress of being set up. BARC is engaged in wide ranging research in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Apart from production of nuclear power, BARC has been engaged in exploitation of the country's atomic minerals. While the country's resources of Uranium are limited, it has been estimated that there are enough stocks of Thorium to produce nuclear energy for the next 200 years.

Other facilities being developed include fuel reprocessing facilities, and the production of heavy water.

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